

San Diego Tennis Reporter

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November 2017

President's Report

By Anne Podney



Anne Podney

The 89th Annual San Diego District Tennis Association's (SDDTA) tournament, sponsored by the American Melanoma Foundation, was packed with Open college players; two former juniors played each other in the final match. Keegan Smith (heading to UCLA) held off Ivan Thamma (UC Davis) to win the match. Thanks to Tournament Director Tony Perez's active recruitment of college players, the Men's Open division had 57 players (versus 38 in 2016) and the Women's Open draw had 24 players (versus 14 in 2016). College players were offered a discounted entry fee, which also helped boost the numbers. The District encourages other tournaments to make the same offer to college players.

San Diegans Bill Kellogg, Rod Laver and the late Bobby Riggs were honored on October 1 at the Annual Southern California Tennis Association's (SCTA) Hall of Fame induction. Kellogg has served as co-chair of the USTA Davis Cup and Fed Cup Committee and has been on the Board of Directors of USTA Southern California



Rod Laver



Bobby Riggs



Bill Kellogg

since 1982. He is also a past President of the SCTA and SDDTA. Living legend Laver is the only person to have won two singles Grand Slams. The late world-class player Riggs was famous for the "Battle of the Sexes" match with Billie Jean King, now a major movie. The award is considered the highest honor bestowed by the SCTA upon those who have left an enduring mark on the tennis community throughout the region.

A big "hat's off" to Peninsula Tennis Club whose members banded together to raise funds to resurface the club's 12 courts in Point Loma. With a generous donation from the Greater San Diego City Tennis Council as well as significant contributions from other donors, the club held two "Fun!Raisers." One was an afternoon of tennis with various fun activities. The other was a live and silent auction with dinner and brew sponsored by Stone Brewing World Bistro & Gardens at Liberty Station. Both events involved a lot of hard work by club members; both were huge successes. The club's involvement in raising the funds is an inspiration and should be a model to all non-profit tennis clubs operating on City land.

Congratulations to Rancho Peñasquitos Tennis Club that was honored with a 2017 USTA Public Facility of the Year Award.

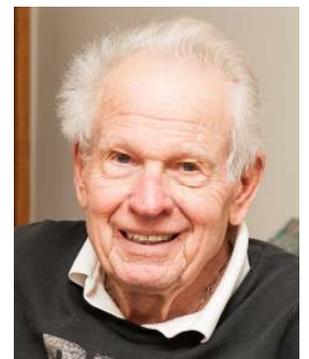
While great tennis was being played on Sunday at the District tournament, something special happened on Court 8 where a Mixed 5.5 match was going on. At the beginning of the second set, Jesse Steinberg approached his partner, Kathryn Nguyen, at the net and tapped her on her shoulder. She turned to see Jesse on his knee, presenting her with an engagement ring and asking her to marry him. The many friends and family watching the match applauded and toasted the couple. Jesse and Kathryn met at the La Costa tournament several years ago so it was more than fitting that they became engaged on court!

It is with sadness that we learned Robert "Bob" Bacon passed away. Bob co-founded the San Diego District Tennis Association, the San Diego division of USPTA, and the SD Tennis Umpires Association. As the San Diego City College men's tennis coach, his players included Angel Lopez, Guy Fritz, and Robin Harris (the first woman to play for a men's



tennis team). He established the Tennis Library at Barnes Tennis Center. Bob was inducted into the SDDTA Hall of Fame and was always a positive tennis advocate as well as a successful tennis competitor with many tournament wins.

Please note that the last two newsletter issues were sent online to all adult USTA members in San Diego County. We closely monitored the reception and found that many of you did not open the newsletter, so we are back to sending it via "snail mail." Issues will also always be available on our website, www.sandiegotennis.com, click on the "ABOUT" button.



Robert "Bob" Bacon

SDDTA Collegiate Committee

By Jami Jones



The San Diego District Tennis Association Collegiate Committee was formed to promote both recreational and competitive tennis participation among collegiate players of all levels. For the past several years, the SDDTA has sponsored our local community colleges through tennis ball and racket donations. We have also supported the SDSU and UCSD Tennis on Campus (TOC) teams by contributing to their budgets to travel to national competitions. SDSU and UCSD TOC and competitive teams as well as community college teams volunteer at Tennis Fest on challenge courts and play in exhibitions; both have been a huge success.

One program we implemented is discounted tournament entry fees for college students. The Maureen Connolly Balboa Open, District, and Metro tournaments offer discounted entry fees to college players who provide student IDs.

Another program awards two \$500 Collegiate Scholarships. Prospective candidates for this scholarship include current 4-year, community, or TOC team players who reside in San Diego County. The SDDTA Collegiate Committee is looking for student-athletes who display qualities such as good sportsmanship, hard work, and leadership on their team as well as in the community. DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 15th. To apply, go to www.sandiegotennis.com, click on the "Programs" button, then "College Scholarships".

On November 12th, several of our members will participate in the USPTA College Knowledge Seminar at Cathedral Catholic High School. This event is for junior players to learn what they need to play college tennis! It is FREE for players, coaches, and families. Contact Amanda Fink at AFINK15@gmail.com.

USTA League Tennis

By Randie Lettington

San Diego District USTA League Tennis is amazing! Nine teams will compete at Nationals this year. Our players won accolades for their sportsmanship along with their tennis skills. Congratulations to these incredible teams!

55+ Ladies 6.0 Stoneridge/ Sandra Sweat
 55+ Ladies 7.0 Rancho Penasquitos Tennis Club/ Vicky Benito
 55+ Ladies 8.0 Kit Carson Park/ Hitomi Wittl
 55+ Ladies 9.0 Rancho Valencia/ Candy Montgomery
 40+ Ladies 3.0 Stoneridge/ Jamie Crivello
 40+ Ladies 4.0 Coronado/ Vivian McAnally
 40+ Ladies 4.5+ Del Rayo Downs/ Robin Hubbard
 40+ Men's 4.0 Coronado/ Dan Vargas

18+ Mixed Doubles 6.0 Rancho Bernardo Summit/ Dahn Dang

Fall 2017 season: We are currently playing SCTA Doubles Leagues including Men's, Girls' Night Out and new ladies Holiday and weekend leagues. Also new this Fall is the Tri-level Mixed Doubles league where creative captains combine their players in this fun local league.

NTRP Year-End Ratings will be published by December 1st. They are based on matches played in 2017 through 10/31. These ratings will be used for the 2018 USTA/SCTA leagues.

Winter 2018 season: Big changes for ladies leagues will take place in Winter 2018 with the shift of the 40+ season moving from Springtime to Winter. The reason is to better align with the SoCal calendar and balance out the large leagues into different seasons. Our popular 18+ Mixed Doubles season will also launch in January. Registration process for teams will start in November with a Captains' Meeting and team sign ups. Team numbers will be assigned but individual registration will open on December 1 (after Year-End Ratings are published). Initial Roster Deadlines will be 12/6, but players may be added until 1/14/18. League play starts the first week of January.

USTA inaugurates new program to recognize top captains. San Diegans to be considered along with other top captains from SoCal are: Josie Hendrix, Beth Munce, Mark Bauer, Samantha Nelson, and Joyce Kammer.

San Diego District Players Compete in ITF World Team Championships in Florida

By Carolyn Nichols



Cathie Anderson



Roz King



Ros Nideffer



Tracey Thompson



Suella Steel

Suella Steel (La Jolla) will captain the Queens Cup team (W75) and Cathie Anderson (Del Mar) will be one of her three teammates. Roz King (San Diego) is the top player on the Doris Hart Cup (W80). The USA is the defending champion of the Queens and Doris Hart Cups. Play will take place at the USTA National Campus in Lake Nona, Florida, October 8-13, 2017.

Ros Nideffer (San Diego) will captain and lead the Maria Bueno Cup team (W50). The USA finished second in 2016 in Helsinki, Finland. Tracey Thompson (San Diego) is a member of the USA Maureen Connolly Cup team which finished third in 2016 in Helsinki. Play for the 50-60 age divisions will take place in Miami Beach and Key Biscayne, Florida, October 29-November 3, 2017.

Only four players are selected for each age division from the entire country annually. It is a huge honor and accomplishment to be a member of a Senior International team. Congratulations and good luck to these exceptional players.

SDDTA Wounded Warrior Tennis Program Showcased at USTA National Conference

By Steve Kappes



Isaac Cortes

Did you know the USTA oversees 30 national committees run by over 400 hand-picked volunteers from all over the country who assist dozens of national staff members advance all aspects of tennis, from kids' programs to the pro tour and everything in between? These volunteers and staff members work hard throughout the year and meet semi-annually to collaborate with each other, review their goals and accomplishments, and plan for the future.

I have the privilege of serving on the Adaptive Tennis Committee, which works to create, grow, and sustain tennis programming for people with disabilities. It also provides a platform to highlight one of the San Diego District Tennis Association's signature programs, our Wounded Warrior Tennis Program. Over the Labor Day weekend, I presented an update of our program to a broad cross-section of national volunteers and staff members in New York, including the USTA President, Katrina Adams, and Chief Executive for Community Tennis, Kurt Kamperman.

I told the story of one of the participants in our Warrior tennis program, disabled combat veteran Isaac Cortes, whose experiences are like many of those who have benefitted from our program. Having sustained multiple injuries to his limbs and brain when his vehicle hit an explosive device in Iraq, Isaac struggled for many years to find relief from debilitating PTSD through nearly every type of therapy and medication offered by military medical centers and the VA. It wasn't until he discovered the healing power of tennis through one of our tennis camps that his symptoms and quality of life greatly improved.

In a letter Isaac wrote to the committee, he said, "Tennis has helped me to better deal with my stress. That green furry ball helps me channel negative energy by converting it to positive thoughts. It also allows me to venture out of my anxiety toxins box which lies dormant in my subconscious mind. While hitting the tennis ball, my tension is gradually released. Flowing from my head right down to my arms, my worries start to diminish just for that moment. My family problems are forgotten and intrusive thoughts are suppressed. In addition, my war horror nightmares disappear for a while." Isaac went on to thank the many people

who run our program, adding that it is the main reason why he is still going strong today with his fight.

Thanks to all of you in the San Diego tennis and business communities who have supported our Wounded Warrior Tennis Program over the past eight years. It is truly making a difference in the lives of our disabled service members, veterans, and their families, and in some cases, has saved their lives. To learn more, please visit www.sdwoundedwarriortennis.org.

SCTA Names Lance S. Lee as New Executive Director



Lance Lee

The Southern California Tennis Association (SCTA) has announced the appointment of **Lance S. Lee**, of Lawnside, New Jersey, as its next Executive Director. Mr. Lee succeeds outgoing Executive Director Bruce A. Hunt, who announced his retirement earlier this year.

"This is a tremendous opportunity and I am thrilled to be leading the SoCal section," Mr. Lee said. "This is where I've always wanted to be and I am looking forward to the exciting times ahead and to accomplishing great things with the team."

Mr. Lee comes to the SCTA from Legacy Youth Tennis and Education of Philadelphia, where he has been the *President and Chief Executive Officer* since 2015. During his tenure, the organization was named the National Junior Tennis and Learning Chapter of the Year by the United States Tennis Association (USTA).

Prior to serving as Legacy Youth Tennis' CEO, Mr. Lee was the *Vice President of Tennis Operations and National Partnerships* from 2011-15. He has also helmed the Division II Men's and Women's Tennis programs at Philadelphia University, as *Head Coach* from 2010-12, and was *Director of Tennis* for Arthur Ashe Youth Tennis and Education of Philadelphia from 2007-10.

A graduate of Hampton University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Sports Management, Mr. Lee also earned a doctorate from the David A. Clarke School of Law at the University of the District of Columbia. In addition, Mr. Lee is a current Board Member of the USTA Foundation and is also a USTA Certified High Performance Coach.

William "Bill" Kellogg, former SCTA president, hosted Mr. Lee recently at a Townhall meeting of local teaching professionals and other community tennis leaders. He praised our tennis programs, listened to numerous ideas to increase tennis participation, and offered the SCTA's continued support in San Diego.



Founding of San Diego GLTA Commemorated at Balboa Tennis Club

By Laurence Watts



Scott Williford

Recently a commemorative brick was placed at Balboa Tennis Club by the San Diego Tennis Federation (SDTF) to mark the 1991 founding of the Gay and Lesbian Tennis Alliance (GLTA) in San Diego. The GLTA sanctions more than 72 U.S. and international tournaments, which collectively make up the world's "gay tennis" circuit.

The memorial was unveiled by current GLTA President, Dan Merrithew (FL), and GLTA's inaugural and founding Commissioner, San Diegan Scott Williford. They dedicated the memorial at the San Diego Doubles 2017, one of two GLTA-sanctioned tennis tournaments held annually in San Diego.

The GLTA was established in the late 1980s as a response to the AIDS crisis.

Several gay tennis clubs were hosting tournaments by the time Vancouver hosted the third Gay Games in 1990.

Scott Williford, the President of the SDTF is credited with creating a set of rules and regulations for the growing number of players. In 1991 the GLTA was established and officers were elected with Williford its first Commissioner.

Today the GLTA sanctions tournaments on four continents. London held the first European event in 1996; Hong Kong hosts one this November.

The GLTA has more than 9,500 registered men and more than 1,000 women players.

GLTA's longevity, growth and scope is a testament to the light-touch way in which it operates – affording local clubs and tournament directors much autonomy – and the positive effect it has in forging national and global friendships around a shared passion for social and competitive tennis.

2017 Tennis Fest

By Lesley Waite



Dick Enberg with Pam Shriver

instruction, or games were offered.

Dick Enberg, a top national sportscaster and great commentator of major tennis tournaments, was honored with the Ben Press Award. He accepted the award from Pam Shriver, a former world-class tour professional, now herself a national tennis commentator, and longtime friend of Enberg.

Many raffle prizes were given out to end the fun and games atmosphere of Tennis Fest, bringing a close to the afternoon of all things tennis in a most vibrant manner.

The 17th edition of Tennis Fest presented by the San Diego District Tennis Association was a huge success. This free event is held every year at Balboa Tennis Club. More than 60 teaching professionals and instructors offered clinics on the club's 25 courts. From the tiniest tots, who delighted in "volleying" a soft ball with a child size racket, to beginners, intermediates, and advanced juniors and adults of all ages, people moved from court to court where skill clinics, stroke



Left to Right: Pam Shriver, USTA Area League Coordinator Randie Lettington, SDDTA Vice President Lesley Waite at the Tennis Fest SDDTA info booth.

You are cordially invited to attend the San Diego District Tennis Association's 2018 Annual Meeting & Awards Banquet Friday, January 19, 2018

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

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

Choice of Entrée: ♦ Hickory Smoked 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 \$40.00 per person (includes tax and gratuities)

For a printable reservation form visit: www.sandiegotennis.com and click on the

"2018 Annual Dinner and Awards Reservation Form"

Or email: sddta@yahoo.com



2017 San Diego District Championships

Photos by Jeff Anderson

Sponsored by the American Melanoma Foundation



Marc Assaraf



Wayne Hughes



Brandi Zaslansky



Clifford Hicks

HOT
and
COOL



Nelson Alapi



Elizabeth Jordan



Gene Norman



Monica Sweet

DATES TO REMEMBER

November

3-5 *Pacific Coast Clay & Hardcourt Championship*
Brian Blumenfeld 760-931-7501

11-12, 18-19 *8th Annual Carmel Valley Open*
Alan Chang 310-408-6169

27-Dec. 3 *USTA National M/W/MXD 40s, Father-Son*
Bill Kellogg 858-454-6500

December

8-10 *5th Annual Carmel Valley Tennis Pro Tourn. \$\$\$*
Alan Chang 310-408-6169

January 2018

6-7, 13-15 *42nd Annual MLK Jr. Memorial Tournament*
Frances Simpson Lang 619-867-7322

26-28 *USTA Women's Pro Circuit Pre-Qualifying*
Patrick Guion 858-759-5446

February 2018

2-4 *Riviera Oaks Resort Winter Tournament*
Greg Failla 760-788-3403

23-25 *La Costa Open*
Brian Blumenfeld 760-931-7501

March 2018

1-4 *129th Annual Pacific Coast Doubles*
Bill Kellogg 858-454-6500

16-18 *Elden B. Yeck Annual Memorial Spring Swing*
Susan Yeck 619-531-7999

April 2018

6-8 *Pacific Beach Adult Open*
Steve Adamson 858-405-1004

21-22, 28-29 *42nd Annual Ace Tennis Classic*
Scott Davis 858-487-9698

May 2018

5-6, 12-13 *30th Annual Peninsula Tennis Club Tournament*
Duncan Depew 619-226-3407

8-14 *USTA Nat'l Women's 50-90, Men's 60-85 Hard Courts, Bill Kellogg 858-464-6500*

The San Diego District Tennis Reporter is published two times a year.

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