

San Diego Tennis Reporter

Volume 34, Number 82

A Publication of the San Diego District Tennis Association

May 2016

President's Report

By Anne Podney



Big changes are in store for San Diego tennis this year. In an effort to keep expenses down, the San Diego District Tennis Association (SDDTA) has decided that after this edition, all newsletters will be digital only. Hard copies will no longer be sent to each USTA member in San Diego County. Please continue to stay informed by going to www.sandiegotennis.com. We are on Facebook, too.

In another big development, Youth Tennis San Diego has chosen to become a Community Tennis Association and so has severed all ties with the District and Section. What this means is that the SCTA will now handle all San Diego competitive junior tennis issues (e.g., tournament calendar, grievances, tournament evaluations). This change does not affect *adult* tennis, but it saddens me that a long association has been terminated.

New Special Use Permits (SUPs), which all clubs on City-owned land must adhere to, has resulted in the formation of a new SDDTA committee, the Club Liaison Committee. Their purpose is to "assist tennis clubs within the District in establishing a network that will increase communication and cooperation among the clubs for the betterment of all clubs and to promote club participation in San Diego tennis activities and events." Not only will the Committee pay attention to City issues and how they affect local courts, but it will help promote league play, the San Diego Aviators, a Padres night and other events.

This year, the SDDTA will award \$500 scholarships to two student-athletes, one male and one female, who reside in San Diego County. Prospective candidates include current community college or four-year college players and Tennis on Campus players. The scholarships help deserving players continue to pursue their educational and athletic goals at a college of their choice. The general criteria for the scholarship are: participation on a collegiate tennis team, academics, and community service. In addition, the SDDTA is looking for student-athletes who display qualities such as good sportsmanship, hard work, and leadership on their team and in the community. To apply for the SDDTA Collegiate Scholarship, please fill out an on-line application at: www.sandiegotennis.com.

Tennis Fest 2016

By Lesley Waite



The 16th Annual TENNIS FEST, a FREE event sponsored by the San Diego District Tennis Association, is Sunday, May 1, from noon to 4 pm at Balboa Tennis Club located at 2221 Morley Field Drive in San Diego. Check-in opens at 11am.

All 25 of Balboa's tennis courts will have teaching pros (about 60 of them from throughout the county) who donate their time to make certain everyone has a wonderful time. The courts are designated for brand-new-to-tennis, tiny tots, novice, intermediate, or advanced levels. Courts are also available for specific strokes, strategy, Hit for Prizes, and a spectator favorite – Beat the Pro. Basically this festival/carnival/fun happening is for all no matter your abilities or disabilities, your age or skill.



We expect about 1,000 people to attend so if your family, friends, or just you are curious about tennis, this is the place to be. It's a showcase for all our tennis community has to offer. The Ben Press Award will be presented to Roz King at noon and raffle prizes are given out at the end of the event on Stadium Court. A big thank you to a major sponsor: the American Melanoma Foundation, which also stepped up to be a sponsor at the District tournament in late August.

The Pro's Corner

By Ben Press



Bryce Cunningham

A native of Australia, Bryce Cunningham, Director of Tennis at Omni La Costa Resort & Spa, brings stellar international experience as a player, coach, and in tennis management.

Bryce's love for tennis started early in his youth. As a junior, he trained at both the Chris Evert and Bollettieri Academies, and went on to play internationally on the ITF circuit. Following his days as a tour player, Bryce earned his USPTA certification and certification as a personal trainer. While still in Australia, he served as Head Tennis Professional at Tiebreak Tennis

Academy, directing the adult and junior programs as well as summer camps.

In 2008, Bryce joined the team at Cliff Drysdale Tennis, and quickly moved up the ranks to Program Director and Camp Director at the award-winning tennis center at The Ritz-Carlton Key Biscayne, Miami, before taking over Florida's Bluewater Bay Tennis Center as Director of Tennis. USPTA P1 certified, Bryce was named 2013 USPTA Pro of the Year for North West Florida. Under his leadership, the facility was voted "Best Tennis Center" in NW Florida by Emerald Coast Magazine. Passionate about growing the game of tennis, Bryce spearheaded a local movement to grow the game via his afterschool programs, seasonal tennis camps and weekly junior round robins. Together with other local coaches, he also organized NW Florida's first local tournament training series for juniors.

Here's one of Bryce's favorite tennis tips:

Learning to Attack the Net Player in Doubles

Learning to attack the opposing net player is an extremely useful tool that a lot of recreational players lack. We are told all too often to keep the ball away from the net player at all costs. **TO ATTACK THE OPPOSING NET PLAYER (AND ON APPROACH SHOTS) KEEP THE BALL LOW AND USE MEDIUM-PACE ANGLE SHOTS.** If you hit a shot at/near the net player and it's low, they'll have to hit up, which means you'll be able to move into net and be more aggressive. And when you hit angle shots, this pulls the opposing teams out of position and opens up the middle of the court and buys you time to approach and close on the net. Recognize the short balls and opportunities and move into net whenever possible, where most points in doubles are won! Remember the closer you get to the net the easier it is to put away the volley.

USTA League Tennis

By Lesley Waite

The USTA Adult 18 & Over and Adult 40 & Over Leagues began in mid-April. Last year the USTA 18 & Over women's 3.0 team from Coronado Tennis Association were USTA National finalists and their 2.5 women's team competed at the nationals. La Jolla Tennis Club's USTA 40 & Over 4.0 women took USTA National third place trophies. While going all the way to the USTA Nationals is a huge competitive accomplishment, thousands of USTA League players here enjoy the fun, camaraderie, and tennis matches they play during the local season.

USTA ADULT 55 & OVER, 65 & OVER and USTA MIXED 40 & OVER

The Captains' Meeting for the USTA Adult 55 & Over, 65 & Over, and Mixed 40 & Over Leagues is Tuesday, May 3 at 1 PM at San Dieguito Tennis Club in Encinitas. Season for the three leagues is July and August.

Format is 3 doubles at NTRP *combo* levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, and 9.0. *Combo* means the sum of the partners' ratings cannot exceed the level of competition and the NTRP difference between partners cannot be greater than one point.

The USTA 55 & Over League is for men's or women's doubles players born in 1961 or earlier. Women compete on weekday mornings at 9 AM. 6.0 – Monday; 7.0 - Tuesday; 9.0 - Wednesday; 8.0 - Thursday. Men play Sunday mornings – all matches are scheduled at 9 AM.

USTA 65 & Over League for players born in 1951 plays on Friday mornings for the women's teams and Saturday mornings for the men.

The USTA Mixed 40 & Over League for players born in 1976 or earlier play Saturday afternoons – 7.0 and 9.0 at 12:30; 6.0, 8.0, and 10.0 at 2:30.

DEADLINE for team registration for all three leagues is June 10 before 8:59 PM (minimum 6 players; maximum 12). Captains call 858-755-810 for team registration number.

USTA FLEX LEAGUE

Online registration for the San Diego Summer Singles USTA FLEX League which is more like a ladder is open for men's and women's flights until May 26 before 8:59 PM. Select your NTRP skill level, Choose San Diego or SD North County area. If not enough players in an area they will be combined. You needn't be a USTA member to participate, although USTA Members save \$10. Expect a suggested schedule of 5-8 matches. Scores are NOT entered into the NTRP data base so scores will not impact a USTA League player's rating. Improve your skills, play your matches at mutually agreeable dates and times, and meet new players.

Register online at USTAFLEX.com or at our local website. www.sandiegotennis.com.

SDDTA Offers Full Slate of Military Outreach Programs

By Steve Kappes



When most people think of tennis court surfaces, concrete, clay, and grass come to mind. But with today's variety of tennis balls (foam, red, orange, green and traditional yellow), tennis can be played on just about any surface – even Astroturf! So on March 19th, District's Military Outreach leaders Steve Kappes, Geoff Griffin, and Josh Jorgensen set up 10 mini-courts on the football field at the 32nd Street Naval Station and facilitated a family-friendly Tennis Play Day for thousands of military families who came to enjoy the Navy's annual "Spring Fling". This is the fourth time the District has participated in this event. Along with a massive egg hunt, a fun run, carnival rides, puppet shows and more, the tennis balls flew back and forth as kids and their parents discovered the joy and ease of playing tennis with the modified equipment and balls. Everyone was surprised to learn of this new approach to making tennis so easy and fun for beginners of all ages, and many took home information on other tennis play dates and summer programs across San Diego County for adults and kids alike.

Future military outreach events include the ongoing free weekly Wounded Warrior tennis clinics for disabled service members and veterans every Tuesday at Balboa Tennis Club, and the 5th Annual National Wounded Warrior Tennis Camp that will take place there from May 15-21, 2016. Over 50 wounded, ill, and injured service members and veterans from over 20 states are expected to participate in 16 hours of tennis instruction and friendly competitions designed to introduce them to the game and help with their rehabilitation and community re-integration. Evening social events will provide additional opportunities for socializing and camaraderie. Fundraising is in progress to cover all the participants' costs – airfare, lodging, meals, tennis equipment and more. We are grateful to the local businesses, veteran and community support organizations, tennis clubs, and individuals who are providing financial and in-kind contributions. If you would like to help support this nationally recognized program, please contact Steve Kappes, stevekappes@hotmail.com. More information is available at www.sdwoundedwarriortennis.org. The program is not affiliated with the Wounded Warrior Project organization.

Our men's and women's tournament results pages could not be included in this issue. For local tournament results or to enter a tournament visit the San Diego District Tennis Association website: www.sandiegotennnis.com, click on the Tournament Info tab at the top, click the Adult Schedule, and choose a tournament.

Run and Roll Tournament Returns to Balboa Tennis Club

By M.A. Hillier



The annual Run and Roll Tournament returned to Balboa Tennis Club in January. A total of 28 participants (14 wheelchair and 14 able bodied players paired up together) on six courts playing in three divisions, between 3.0-4.5 NTRP rating. An awards ceremony was held in the clubhouse with winners in each division receiving \$50 gift certificates and finalists receiving \$25 gift certificates to the Griffin Pro Shop, followed by a delicious catered dinner by Ohana's Café.

Many thanks to the sponsors of this year's tournament, including SDDTA (balls and \$400 grant), Balboa Tennis Club (reduced court rental fees), Ohana Café (catered dinner), Active Duty Sportswear (t-shirts), and Griffin Pro Shop. The tournament was also a fundraiser for Wheelchair Tennis San Diego, a tennis program that utilizes the Barnes Tennis Center twice a week for wheelchair tennis practices. Other donations raised an additional \$300 that will be used for tennis instruction, tubes and tires, balls, and other badly needed equipment and maintenance repairs. For more information on this program, or to make a donation, please contact Bryan East at 619-991-6250.

The participants all had a great time playing in the tournament and making new friends. After watching the wheelchair (rolling) players maneuver around the court, it gave the able bodied (running) players a new found appreciation for their legs and ability to run around the court unrestricted. Members of Balboa that participated in the tournament included John Dodgen, Todd Linke, Mark Yambor, Pat Newman, Carol Jory, Rancy Breece, Rory Tarantino, Teri Howard, Peter Stiehle, Laurie Mychaels, Jeffrey Light, Suzanne Lindemann, and Judy Janc.

The tournament will be back again next year. M. A. promises to try and avoid the football season!!

Griffin Family USTA Award



At the recent USTA Annual Meeting & Conference held at Omni La Costa Resort & Spa the Griffin family was named USTA Ralph W. Westcott Family of the Year. Stan and Jo Griffin, longtime tennis competitors (she was a former Canadian champion) and their sons Geoff (Balboa Tennis Club Tennis Director) and his wife Manuela, Chaz and his wife Sunya and their three children, along with Jack and his wife Amy and their two children were proud to accept such a prestigious award. The Griffin family is noted for its years of community service and for promoting tennis for anyone who wants to play the sport.

2016 Annual Awards Banquet

Photos by Jeff Anderson

San Diego Tennis Hall of Fame

The 2016 San Diego District Tennis Association Tennis Hall of Fame will honor five individuals who made significant contributions in the tennis world. The ceremony will be held on Saturday, August 27th, 4:30pm at Balboa Tennis Club. The celebration is open to the public.

The class of 2016 includes:

- James "Chico" Hagey - Junior Stand-Out, College Great
- Leland Housman - Senior Success
- Kathy May - Senior Success, World Class
- Janet Newberry - Junior Stand-Out, World Class
- Walter Redondo - Junior Stand-Out

They join an illustrious group of outstanding honorees.



Class of 2006

- Bill Bond
- Maureen Connolly Brinker
- Michael Chang
- Dodo Cheney
- Wilbur Folsom
- Jeanne Doyle Garrett
- William Scripps Kellogg
- Fred Kinne
- Ben Press
- Karen Hantze Susman

Class of 2010

- Robert "Bob" Bacon
- Virginia M. Glass
- Robert "Bob" Perry
- Patricia Canning Todd
- Larry Willens

Class of 2011

- Harper Ink, Sr.
- Angel Lopez
- Gretchen Magers
- Robert "Bobby" Riggs
- Valerie Ziegenfuss

Class of 2007

- Alex Gordon
- Pancho Segura
- William Stack
- Suella Steel
- Katherine Chabot Willette

Class of 2012

- Roy Barth
- Terry Holladay
- Jerry Magee
- Marita Redondo
- Dick Roberson

Class of 2008

- Franklin Johnson
- William J. Kellogg
- Jean Kremm
- James "Jim" Perley
- Brian Teacher

Class of 2014

- Stephen E. Avoyer
- Roland H. Brock
- Robert L. "Bob" Galloway
- Jane Stratton
- Raquel Giscadre
- Lester Rollo "Les" Stofen

Class of 2009

- George Barnes
- Robert D. Carrothers, Jr.
- Ed Collins
- Kelly Jones
- Dr. Homer Peabody



Poh Seng Tan



Megan McCray



Anne Rosser



Logan Jenkins



Stephen Kaplan



Lynne Beerle

DATES TO REMEMBER:

May

- 1** **TENNIS FEST, 12PM – 4PM,**
BALBOA TENNIS CLUB
- 9-15** *LJB&TC Sr. Men's, Sr. Women's 50-90 Nat'l
Hard Cts, LJB&TC, Bill Kellogg 858-454-6500*
- 21-22, 28-29** *40th Arthur Ashe Memorial Tournament,
Mt. View Sports & Racquet Club,
Evelyn Irving 619-867-7322*
- 30– June 5** *USTA Nat'l Open Hard Courts, Balboa Tennis
Club, Colleen Ferrell 619-295-4242*

June

- 4-5, 11-12** *42nd Fallbrook Tournament, Fallbrook Tennis
Club, Dorothy Roth 760-728-1100*
- 17-July 3** *100th La Jolla Championships,
La Jolla Tennis Club, Brent Davis 858-454-4434*

July

- 8-10** *24th Annual Mountain View Tournament,
Mt. View Sports & Racquet Club,
Evelyn Irving 619-867-7322*
- 16-17** *Hendrickson Wheelchair Classic, Balboa Tennis
Club, Bryan East 619-222-3502*
- 22-24, 29-31** *87th Balboa Open Maureen Connolly Memorial
Balboa Tennis Club, Geoff Griffin 619-838-1533*

August

- 12-13, 20-21** *Rancho Penasquitos Tennis Ctr. Tournament
RPTC, Sabine Schroeder 858-484-0745*
- 26-28, Sept. 3-5** *88th San Diego District Championships,
Balboa Tennis Club, Tony Perez 619-299-8647*

September

- 10-11, 17-18** *16th Annual Triton Classic,
UCSD, Timmer Willing 858-534-8457*
- 24-25, Oct. 1-2** *71st San Diego Metropolitan Tournament,
Balboa Tennis Club, Tony Perez 619-295-9278*

October

- 8-9, 15-16** *Rancho Bernardo Fall Classic,
RB Community Ctr., Scott Davis 858-487-9698*
- 28-30** *Barnes Tennis Ctr. Open, NTRP & Sr. Champ.,
Barnes Tennis Ctr., Jake Worseldine 619-221-9000*

November

- 4-6** *Pacific Coast Clay & Hard Court Championship,
La Costa Resort, Brian Blumenfield 760-931-7501*
- 12-13, 19-20** *7th Annual Carmel Valley Open, Carmel Valley
Tennis Center, Alan Chang 310-408-6169*

The San Diego District Tennis Reporter is published three times a year and is free to USTA clubs and members.

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