

# San Diego Tennis Reporter

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November 2018

## President's Report

By Anne Podney



Anne Podney

Congratulations to all who participated in the 90<sup>th</sup> Annual San Diego District Championships. While league play in San Diego is growing, I was happy to also see a growth in our District tournament numbers this year. We especially welcomed college players and encouraged them to participate by offering a reduced rate for their participation. Both the 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Balboa Open Maureen Connolly Brinker Memorial Tournament and the San Diego 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Metropolitan Tournament also offered this reduced rate; we encourage all tournament directors to do so, as well.

Unfortunately, the SCTA has decided to raise the surcharge that tournament directors pay from \$1 to \$2 per singles player, and to \$4 per doubles team. The SCTA suggests that tournament directors pass the fees onto the players. I advised the SCTA that the 100% increase was excessive and would certainly hurt those tournaments with small draws, especially those with small doubles draws. I hope tournament entry fees will remain the same, but this may change next year.

One way tournaments can hold entry fees down and still offer quality tournaments is by searching out sponsorship. The La Jolla Championships, the District Tournament and several others do this. A big thank you to the Belinsky Foundation for their new sponsorship of the Rancho Peñasquitos Open this summer. Because of the foundation's sponsorship, the tournament was able to give out quality T-shirts, drinks and snacks. If you (or your company) are interested in sponsoring a tournament, that is a huge contribution to tennis in your area.

There are lots of reasons to take up tennis, even if you have never picked up a racket before. Landon Donovan, the most accomplished United States National soccer team player ever, is relatively new to the sport but has been participating in San Diego leagues and tournaments lately. In *Men's Journal* he is quoted as saying "...now that I'm retired...I've actually fallen in love with tennis. I play a lot...instead of just going to the gym and running on the treadmill for an hour I can do something that's fun and enjoyable, and by the end of it I'm exhausted and had a great workout."

Summer also saw a very successful Tennis Fest. Over 50 pros, including 84-year-old Tad Yamaguchi, participated and hundreds of people took part in the clinics and festivities. This is the biggest project that the San Diego District undertakes, and it will continue to do so. A big thank you to everyone, and especially Amanda Fink and Jim Winters. If you are interested in chairing this event next year and have extra time and energy, contact our District office for details.

The Belinsky Family also sponsored the bi-annual San Diego Tennis Hall of Fame event held on Aug. 25.

The 2019 class of inductees included:

Dick Doss: *Junior Stand-out, College Great, Senior Success*  
Gene Garrett: *Junior Stand-out, College Great, World Class, Teaching Pro*  
Kristien Kemmer: *Junior Stand-out, World Class*  
Ros Nideffer: *Senior Success, World Class*  
David Sanderlin: *Junior Stand-out, College Great, World Class, Teaching Instructor*

New SDDTA board member John Broderick stepped up to the plate, and with Paulina Rassavong's help, provided a memorable after-party. If you are interested in becoming a board member, we have several openings right now, so contact us. We are always looking for hard workers with ideas who want to give back to our tennis community.



Tad Yamaguchi



Landon Donovan



Jim Lackritz, Ros Nideffer, Kristien Kemmer, Dick Doss, Helen Garrett, David Sanderlin, Larry Belinsky

## Harris & Snyder Named to USTA SoCal Senior Hall of Fame



Robin Harris



Saul Snyder

San Diegans Robin Harris and Saul Snyder were named to the USTA SoCal Senior Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony took place October 10th at the La Jolla Beach & Tennis Club.

## San Diego Seniors Shine on International Stage

By Carolyn Nichols



Liane Bryson and Cathie Anderson

Ten San Diego players were named to USTA International Teams in 2018. These players have or will represent the USA in Senior Davis and Fed Cup competition in Germany, Croatia and Florida.

The "Seniors" (ages 50, 55 & 60) competition was held in Ulm Germany August 12-17 (team) and 18-25 (individuals). Debbie Spence Nasim (Carlsbad) and Ros Nideffer (San Diego) were members of

the USA Maria Bueno Cup for women 50+ and brought home gold to the USA. Nasim played #1 singles and went undefeated; Nideffer captained the team. Carolyn Nichols (Rancho Santa Fe) captained the USA Alice Marble Cup (W60) to a second place finish. The following week Nichols/Robin Harris (San Diego) were 60 doubles finalists; Nichols was a bronze medalist in 60 singles.

The "Super Seniors" (ages 65-85) competition was held in Umag, Croatia from September 16-29. Liane Bryson (San Diego) was a member of the silver medal winning Althea Gibson (W70) team. Cathie Anderson (Del Mar) and Suella Steel (La Jolla) were members of the Queens (W75) team which finished second; Ros King (San Diego) played #1 singles on the gold medal winning Doris Hart (W80) team and Saul Snyder (San Diego) anchored the #2 singles slot on the champion Men's 85 team. Bryson (W70 doubles) and Anderson (Mixed 75 doubles) won gold medals the following week in the individual world championships; Steel took bronze in Women's 75 doubles. King was a finalist in 80 doubles and a semifinalist in 80 singles.

The "Young Seniors" (ages 35, 40, 45) competition will take place October 21-26 (team) and 27-Nov 3 (individuals) in Miami Beach, Florida. Millie Yablonycky (Encinitas) and Debbie Higa (Solana Beach) are members of the Young Cup team (W40).

## USTA League Tennis

By Randie Lettington

### National Teams Representing Southern California

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

55+ W 6.0 Morgan Run Resort/Sandra Sweat  
55+ W 7.0 Winners Tennis Club/Crista Hubbard  
40+ W 3.0 Eastlake Country Club/Judy Camp  
40+ W 4.5+ Scripps Ranch Swim & Racquet Club/Kellie Jaquez  
18+ W 2.5 Coronado Tennis Association/Marlis Veremhren

Finalists in SoCal Section (2<sup>nd</sup> best in SoCal):  
55+ M 7.0 Kit Carson Park/Mark Warren  
55+ W 9.0 Balboa Tennis Club/Sue Sprague

### 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 15<sup>th</sup>** to TopCaptainsUSTASD@gmail.com.

### Captains' Meeting for Winter & Spring 2019 USTA Leagues

Captains' Meetings for Winter and Spring League Seasons will be held on:

November 7<sup>th</sup> 7PM Barnes Tennis Center

November 8<sup>th</sup> 1PM San Dieguito Tennis Club

Winter Season: Adult 40 and Over leagues for men and women  
Mixed Doubles 18 and Over league

Spring Season: Adult 18 and Over leagues for men and women  
Mixed Doubles 55 and Over league

Topics will be rules and regulation changes for 2019, registration timing, scheduling, Championships update, NTRP ratings-snacks and, of course, USTA swag!

### Winter Registration Deadlines:

- Mid-late November - Team requests/set ups
- December 1<sup>st</sup> - Player registration starts (after NTRP ratings published)
- December 10<sup>th</sup> - Initial Roster Deadline
- Mid-January - Final Roster Deadline
- League play will start the first week of January. Start planning your teams now!

**NTRP Year-End Ratings** will be published on or around December 1<sup>st</sup>. Ratings will be based on results of USTA/SCTA matches played in 2018 through October 31<sup>st</sup>. These ratings will be in use for the 2019 leagues.

### San Diego League Growth!

For the second year in a row San Diego is one of the top areas in the nation for local league growth through September 2018. This is thanks to the support of our clubs and the players who are enjoying more fun and competitive league tennis. Let's keep the momentum going!



## Returning the Serve

By Steve Kappes



Those of you who follow the District's newsletters and social media are likely aware of one of the District's signature programs – the Wounded Warrior Tennis Program – which has entered its ninth year. Nationally recognized for its excellence and impact, it has helped improve the lives of over 1000 wounded, ill, and injured service members and veterans from across the country through tennis. Our annual national Wounded Warrior Tennis Camps in May receive significant media attention, but just as important are the lower profile free weekly tennis clinics for that run year-round for disabled service members and veterans in San Diego.

Every other Monday, Balboa Tennis Club's Tennis Director, Geoff Griffin, and Assistant Pro Spike Lowndes run free introductory tennis clinics at Naval Medical Center San Diego for patients going through rehab there. Geoff says, "These clinics have great value to the students – they're all on active duty and many are new to their injuries. We make tennis fun and ease up on the instruction so as not to overwhelm them."

The Medical Center's Recreation Therapist, Kim Elliott, loves the program. "I refer my patients to it because it is a great "next step" to becoming active in the community. Tennis helps with balance, hand/eye coordination, endurance, strength, moving directions quickly and helping to learn how a sport can be adapted. Geoff and Spike are amazing volunteers, and the patients love how Geoff keeps things moving and how funny he is. We laugh a lot during tennis; it is also encouraging people to engage in healthy recreation outlets and not be isolative or self-medicating."

In addition to the Monday clinics, Geoff and Spike lead a team of about 10 pros and volunteers who run free weekly clinics every Tuesday at Balboa Tennis Club for veterans referred to the program by the VA Medical Center in La Jolla. Volunteers and veterans work together on court and with set-up and cleanup. Everyone is great at welcoming new people to the class. Shannon, a regular volunteer, agrees. "It has been a treat to see the benefits of this weekly gathering first-hand and witness the improvements of each Warrior. I have seen veterans who are new to the program start out being very quiet and shy but have since opened up and have more interaction with the other participants."

These clinics consist of tennis techniques, skills, and fitness necessary for the game, but it's about much more than that. The clinic participants have become one big family, a connection among comrades, with complimentary post-tennis lunches prepared and served by club members that provide a means for additional community reintegration.

Veteran player Mark enthusiastically looks forward to the clinic every week, as do two dozen others, and Veteran player Avery remarked with pride, "I didn't think I could play tennis, now look at me!", a common refrain among the players. These clinics are about tennis, but more importantly, they're about good times, confidence-building, smiling and laughing with fellow service members and veterans, and realizing that they are not alone.

For more information on the Wounded Warrior Tennis Program, please visit [www.sdwoundedwarriortennis.org](http://www.sdwoundedwarriortennis.org).

## Collegiate Committee Awards Scholarships

By Jami Jones



Amanda Fink, Hong Ly, Rafael Maniego and Jim Winters

The SDDTA Collegiate Committee awarded \$1000 in scholarships to four local college students. Lily Nilipour-Stanford University and Josah Corpuz-San Diego City College received \$500 each. Hong Ly-University of California-San Diego and Rafael Maniego-San Diego City College each received \$250. Nilipour and Ly were involved in the Tennis on Campus program sponsored by the USTA/SCTA. The purpose of these scholarships is to help deserving collegiate tennis players continue to pursue their educational and athletic goals at a college of their choice. The committee is "looking for student-athletes who display qualities such as good sportsmanship, hard work, and leadership on their team as well as in their community."

## *San Diegans Selected for Intersectional Teams*

The 2018 USTA Intersectional Team Championship teams have many players from San Diego who will represent SoCal in November at the Phoenix Tennis Center. They include: (35) Stepanka Hastings, Auriele Udall, Valerie Tan, Julie Gerken; (45) Debbie Nasim, Ros Nideffer, Debbie Higa; (55) Tracey Thompson, Section Captain Colleen Clery Ferrell, Rainy Miller, Una Davis, Robin Harris; (65) Carol Gay, Masako Beppu; (75) Cathie Anderson, Suella Steel, Uta Hegberg; (80) Roz King, Sheila Palmer.

## *SDDTA Will Honor 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    | Liane Bryson and Taylor Fritz                 |
| Pros of the Year       | Darice Carnaje and Juan Garcia                |
| Sportsmanship          | Lan Wilhelm and Romeo Matias                  |
| Family of the Year     | The Ray Family                                |
| Community Service      | Jim Winters                                   |
| Club of the Year       | Balboa Tennis Club                            |
| Sponsor of the Year    | Squar Milner                                  |
| Tournament of the Year | 73rd Annual San Diego Metropolitan Tournament |

## *18th Annual Tennis Fest*

*By Lesley Waite*



Geoff Griffin

Tennis Fest, a signature San Diego District Tennis Association *free* event, kicked off summertime tennis. This tremendous community tennis block party was as good as always. Twenty-five courts at Balboa Tennis Club were devoted to tennis clinics for every tennis stroke for beginners, intermediate, and advanced kids and adults. There were games like “Hit for Prizes” and “Beat the Pro”, all favorites for participants. The cutest tiny tykes were on court, with rackets sometimes as big as they were, to have the thrill of hitting their

first foam ball over the net. Dozens of sponsors donated items for the raffle that follows the on-court fun.

Geoff Griffin was honored with the Ben Press Award for Community Service, definitely well deserved. He has spent decades helping those less fortunate and for years was a key person in presenting Tennis Fest.

Many thanks to the 50 volunteer tennis professionals and instructors who were on court teaching strokes and clinics. The large public turnout, more than eight hundred people, enjoyed this community tennis festival. Tennis Fest once again proved that tennis is alive and booming in San Diego!

You are cordially invited to attend the  
**San Diego District Tennis Association's 2019 Annual Meeting & Awards Banquet**  
**Friday, January 18, 2019**

La Jolla Beach & Tennis Club, 2000 Spindrift 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](http://www.sandiegotennis.com) or email: [sddta@yahoo.com](mailto:sddta@yahoo.com) for reservation information.





# 2018 San Diego District Championships

*Photos by Jeff Anderson*

## Sponsored by the American Melanoma Foundation



Kalman Boyd



Amanda Fink



Janene Christopher



Jerry Naumann

# HIT Your Spot!



Jack Autry



Jerry Sabio



Keith Barksdale



Sherr Aquino

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**November**

**2-4** *Pacific Coast Clay & Hardcourt Championship*  
Brian Blumenfeld 760-931-7501

**10-11, 17-18** *9th Annual Carmel Valley Open*  
Alan Chang 310-408-6169

**26-Dec. 2** *USTA National M/W/MXD 40s, Father-Son*  
Bill Kellogg 858-454-6500

**December**

**7-9** *6th Annual Carmel Valley Tennis Pro Tourn. \$\$\$*  
Alan Chang 310-408-6169

**January 2019**

**12-13, 19-21** *43Rd Annual MLK Jr. Memorial Tournament*  
Frances Simpson Lang 619-867-7322

**25-27** *Morgan Run Women's Open Wild Card Event*  
Patrick Guion 858-759-5446

**February 2019**

**2-3** *Riviera Oaks Resort Winter Tournament*  
Greg Failla 760-788-3403

**16-18** *Coronado Adult Tournament*  
Bryan Conway 760-703-7470

**22-24** *La Costa Open*  
Brian Blumenfeld 760-931-7501

**28 -Mar. 3** *130th Annual Pacific Coast Doubles*  
Bill Kellogg 858-454-6500

**March 2019**

**23-24, 30-31** *Ace Tennis Classic*  
Scott Davis 858-487-9698

**April 2019**

**5-7** *Pacific Beach Adult Open*  
Steve Adamson 858-405-1004

**May 2019**

**4-5, 11-12** *31st Annual Peninsula Tennis Club Tournament*  
Duncan Depew 619-226-3407

**6-12** *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

**18-19, 25-27** *43rd Arthur Ashe Memorial Tournament*  
Frances Simpson-Lang 619-867-7322

**27-June 2** *USTA National Open*  
Colleen Ferrell 619-295-4242

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

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