



## **Geoff Griffin (1959 - ) Community Service and Teaching Pro**

You might say tennis runs in Geoff's blood. Geoff's father, Stan, played tennis in Great Britain, and made a name for himself. In fact, Stan represented Great Britain in the Senior Davis Cup. Mother, Jo (no hack herself), achieved the number one junior girls player ranking in Canada. With genes like that, how could Geoff not be a tennis standout.

Born and raised in La Jolla, the instructors and mentors that guided Geoff's tennis development included some of San Diego's most illustrious pros. Bob Perry, Bill Millikan, Bill Bond, and Ben Press. Geoff credits Bill Bond with inspiring him to become a professional tennis instructor. And Ben Press taught young Geoff the value of volunteering and giving back to the community.

Upon graduating from San Diego State University with a degree in Business Administration, Geoff made it his business to give back. Big Time:

- It was Geoff who founded the very inclusive *Test Fest*, and directed it for 18 years. Children and adults are treated to free clinics and exhibitions from San Diego's pros, as well as prizes and other entertainment. In recent years, Geoff has expanded *Tennis Fest* to include supporting charities. He also added an auction. Geoff's wife, Manuela, leads a group of volunteers in making exciting gift baskets. All proceeds are donated.
- San Diego's *Wounded Warriors* holds a special place in Geoff's heart. He has been running weekly lessons for our unsung heroes for over 14 years and has no plans to stop.
- Geoff has run the *Wounded Warriors National Camp* for eight years, giving them his expertise.
- Geoff has been the *Tennis Thanks The Troops/Thanks USA* Ambassador for several years. Geoff led area pros in putting on numerous fundraisers for our troops. More than once Geoff's efforts brought in the most donations in the US. He donates his prize to a deserving wounded member of our armed forces and spouse: an all expenses paid trip to New York for the US Open.
- Additionally, Geoff has given to: *Adopt A Unit*, which sends care packages to troops overseas. And, to various Holiday gift drives for local homeless shelters.
- Geoff has served on the San Diego Tennis Council for five years and counting.
- As a member of the United States Professional Tennis Association, Geoff has served on San Diego's local board for 25 years and is still serving. He has served as both President and Vice President. Geoff is one involved guy.

Currently, busy Geoff makes the time to be the Director of Tennis at the Balboa Tennis Club; a post he has held for over three decades. He runs a staff of nine certified pros on four courts. With quality instruction and affordability as his guiding principles, Geoff has made the teaching program at the Balboa Tennis Club a tremendous success.

With family first, Geoff's father Stan and mother Jo, still put in hours at the pro shop at Morley Field as do sister-in-law, Sunya, niece Palia and nephew Shane. Geoff's brother Chaz teaches tennis there as one of the certified pros.

Geoff says he likes his work and supporting his many causes. He also says he likes a round of golf once a week. But, he won't say his handicap. That's okay Geoff. You're still a tennis "ace."

Geoff and his wife Manuela, live in North Park.