



Berkeley Tennis Club

NEWSLETTER (510) 841-1380 • www.berkeleytennisclub.org

October 2016

VOLUME 10 • ISSUE 10

Women's Locker Room and Court Lights Dinner & Dance

on the Deck was a Hit

The WLR project is in the home stretch. The current activities include installation of the cherry-finish lockers, installation of all the finish plumbing, electrical and lighting fixtures, completion of the flooring, finish and upgrade of the corridor and stairway to the 1st Floor and installation of the exterior ADA lift. We have experienced some delays in delivery of a few finish items, but are aiming for a completion in mid to late October. We certainly appreciate and thank the membership for your patience throughout this construction period.

The House and Grounds Committee has been studying the feasibility of replacing all the tennis court lights, both to improve the tennis experience and also to save on our energy costs. A consultant has been engaged to develop a design and estimate to install LED lights on Court #2 as a demonstration project. LED lights are superior for energy savings but have only recently become economically feasible for tennis courts. We will provide periodic updates on the results of this study.

Respectfully,

The WLR and House and Grounds Committees

Oh what a night forty-five BTC members had on the deck Friday, September 23 as it coincided perfectly with one of our first warm Indian summer evenings. The event started with appetizers and two new wines specially ordered for the event, which piqued a lot of interest for the November 12 "Stock Your Cellar" event.

Music by the Bonafides, a band run by BTC member Craig William's, brought a quintet including their lively singer, Ali Wegener to inspire many to hit the deck dancing.

Rumor has it that our next dance gala will include an hour of West Coast Swing dance instruction followed by live music to practice your new three step.



Upcoming Events

- Women's Locker Room Reception.....to be determined*
- Happy HourOctober 7 at 5 pm*
- Club Doubles Championships.....October 22 & 23*
- Stock Your Cellar.....November 12*
- Winter Holiday PartyDecember 4*



From the Manager's Desk

Jeremy Gregory

Hello again members, a lot to cover in this message, so I will try to make it interesting. October is going to shape up to be a month of much excitement, many changes and what I think to be momentum for the future. I know many communications and correspondence can get redundant, but with a membership of over 1200, it is important to try and reach as many of you as possible with the many things happening at BTC. As always, please feel free to reach out to me with questions, concerns or just to chat.

We are rapidly approaching conclusion of the Women's Locker Room project. Included in this month's newsletter is a more detailed report, but from a manager's perspective. Whether it is the layout, the tile work or the beautiful woodwork, it is shaping up to be a gorgeous space within our club. I am currently working on finalizing the process of locker distribution, amenities and offerings within the locker room and the very important task of cleaning, maintenance and standard operating procedures for our new asset. We will be providing more information in the upcoming weeks for the above mentioned items and the grand opening celebration is being planned.

The month of October will bring the long awaited arrival of Morten, our new Director of Tennis. He will be arriving in Berkeley in early October and begin at BTC shortly afterwards. Morten will hit the ground running, beginning with familiarizing himself with the club's procedures, the ongoing after school programs, the club Doubles Championship and the process of getting familiar with his new position. Morten has been communicating to me several of his ideas, plans for programming and ways to build our Tennis community. This year the Club's Doubles Championship will be happening on October 22nd and 23rd, please come out and participate, watch some great Tennis or just socialize with your fellow members.

Now to the club's new website. We are anticipating a launch date in the middle of October. We are currently putting the final content information in and edits. Once this is completed the test runs will happen and we will release it to all of you. I have been experimenting with a lot of different features and am pleased about the many things that we can offer to our membership. Whether it is the many features of your member profile and the information you can control and add to the roster, online statements and minimum information, event reservations and fliers or the dynamic group capability, the options and information content is very useful. We will continue to keep you updated and communicate the necessary information in advance.

Lastly, here are a few smaller projects that are being completed in October. On October 4th we will have changed and upgraded our phone system. This system will allow us to utilize an auto attendant to direct calls efficiently and directly to each extension, transfer calls to each extension, have voice mails for each department and most of all, save some money! Once this goes into effect, please remember that you can go directly to reception at any time by hitting zero. Around the club we will be continuing to work on general maintenance items, paint and cleaning projects, and the ongoing organization of the basement storage. In the café, check out the new items added like a grilled cheese, daily salad special and hot dogs on weekends. Very soon we will be offering hamburgers once again, in the café. As always, I look forward to seeing you at the club, and please let me know if you have any questions or if I can assist you in anyway.

See you at the Club,

Jeremy

New Provisional Membership Category

The purpose of the Provisional Membership is to attract new club members who want to experience BTC and its amenities, want to make sure it's a good fit and are serious about joining the club. These provisional members will be allowed up to 6 months to determine if they want to officially join the club, however they may join at any point during the 6 month time period. Provisional Memberships are offered one-time only.

Details

The prospective member must have an application on file, be sponsored by a club member and listed on the waiting list in order to be considered for a Provisional Membership.

The Provisional Member candidate(s) must be recommended by the Membership Committee and approved by the Board following the usual procedures.

The Provisional Member will be billed monthly dues appropriate for their membership classification at the beginning of the month and not to exceed 6 months total.

The Provisional Member can enjoy all the club amenities and features except voting.

The Provisional Member has until the end of the sixth month to decide if they want to become a regular member. They may not defer, but can decline and be moved to the end of the wait list.

Once the decision is made to officially join the club, the Provisional Member will be required to pay the initiation fee appropriate for their membership

There will be up to six Provisional Memberships on-going at the same time and this number may change as recommended by the Membership Committee.

Policies

When a prospective member(s) from the waiting list decides they would like to become a Provisional Member, they should contact the Membership liaison in the office or a member of the Membership Committee.

During the monthly Membership Committee meeting, these prospective members will be discussed and recommended to the Board for approval.

Club Doubles Tournament, Time to Sign Up

Club Doubles tournament is a two day event for all levels. It is our premier BTC Tennis Event and we hope everyone will enter. Players enter as a team in Men's Doubles, Women's Doubles and Mixed Doubles and all ages and levels are encouraged to sign up. Players may play two events. Our committee will group the teams by level and all teams will compete in a double elimination draw with their group. Players will receive a gift for entering, and winners will have their photos posted in the champions display cabinet. Great food and drinks will be served throughout the weekend. Please save the weekend to participate.

Sign up sheets are now available on the club board. If you have any questions or last moment cancellations, contact Tournament Chair Harold Knuston at Haroldknuston@sbcglobal.net or 510-482-5692.



The poster features a yellow tennis ball with a splatter effect at the top. Below it, the text reads: "2016 Annual Club Doubles Tournament" in blue, followed by "Women's Doubles, Mixed Doubles, Men's Doubles" in black. The dates "Saturday, October 22 & Sunday, October 23" are listed. Three small photos show tennis players in action. Below the photos is a list of amenities: "Two days of tennis by flights", "Lunch · Beer · Wine · Soft Drinks", and "Official player's gift". Further down, it states "All skill levels & ages are welcome to play" and "Price \$20.00 per person (Applies to monthly cafe minimum)". The bottom section says "Players must be available both days", "Sign-up on Club Board by October 16", and provides contact information for Tournament Chair Harold Knuston: "Tournament Chair Harold Knuston (haroldknuston@sbcglobal.net) 510-482-5692".

2016
Annual Club Doubles Tournament
Women's Doubles, Mixed Doubles, Men's Doubles
Saturday, October 22 & Sunday, October 23



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- Lunch · Beer · Wine · Soft Drinks
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Tournament Chair Harold Knuston
(haroldknuston@sbcglobal.net)
510-482-5692



President's Message

Peter Beernink



Fellow BTC Members,

Several weeks ago, Jeremy Gregory and I attended a workshop for club managers and presidents at the Olympic Club in downtown San Francisco. This all-day leadership summit on “Uniting Club Presidents and Executives Pursuing Effective Club Leadership and Governance” was run by a club consulting and education firm. The topics were effective governance models, organizational health, governance challenges, club trends and change and evolution. They described golf and tennis clubs as generally fitting into three categories: the “good and great,” the “holding their own” and the “highly dysfunctional.” It is tempting to ask where we are in this spectrum and whether we are moving in a positive direction. The benchmarks for high performing clubs include high satisfaction of members and staff, low turnover, efficiency in operations, clarity in mission, effective communication, succession planning and “minimal politics and divisiveness.”

Well if any of these areas strikes a nerve with you, the good news is that the areas for our potential to improve are clear. Obviously, we have had major changes in the past year with a new General Manager and we have received very positive feedback about Jeremy's performance in his first six months at our Club. We have a new Tennis Director coming in the next few weeks, which presents an exciting opportunity to build tennis programming and to garner increased visibility for the Club. Finally, we have had a significant turnover in Desk Managers. Although training new staff members involves a learning curve, there is a benefit in that moving forward our new employees will have been hired and trained by Jeremy and his staff and good practices can be established from the start. The other encouraging sign from our attendance of the governance summit is that many of the topics of discussion are things that BTC's Board of Directors has discussed in the last several years, such as member engagement, data-driven decisions, consolidation of committees, long-range planning and avoiding micro-management by allowing our Manager to manage. If you have operational suggestions, please direct them to Jeremy or our staff (did somebody mention hamburgers?). If you have strategic ideas on how to improve the Club, please contact me or any other Board member or relevant Committee member and we will strive to make our Club the best it can be. If you are interested in seeing the handbook from the Governance Summit, you can borrow it from the front office.

Proposing Three New Board Members

A nominating committee has formed to propose a slate of candidates for election to the membership at next year's annual general meeting. The committee is composed of Nancy Rupprecht, Vivian Scharlach and Jerry Sontag. If you have recommendations for prospective candidates, please contact one of the committee members.