



The Drop Shot

Official Newsletter of the Peninsula Tennis Club

By Jeff Tateosian

650.347.1439 jeff@ptctennis.com

March 2008

President's Update



Stuart Batchelor

Volunteering has always been a strong part of PTC's culture. You can ask any of the "old timers" about how they had work parties to get repairs done and paint the club. As the Club has grown in size over the years some of our culture has been consumed by our own busy lives. However all is not lost as volunteering is still fundamental to the success of the PTC. Over the past two years I have had the pleasure to work with many of our members that have given of their time and efforts to assist with the Capital Improvement Project. I've also seen other members give of their time to assist on many of our club committees.

As of last month the Club has three new board members and most of our committees have new leads. All of our committees are looking for members to share with them their ideas and time. If you have any desire to participate on one or more of the PTC committees, please pick up the phone or email the respective board member or committee chair to let them know of your interest. The committees are as follows:

- Tennis Committee

Board Member - **Becky Showen**,
theshowens@comcast.net, home 348.8446
Committee Chairperson - TBD

The tennis committee is tasked with organizing and running all our tennis events (e.g. van Dillen Men's Doubles, Women's Doubles, Men's & Women's Calcutta, Team Tennis, Mixed Doubles Tournament, etc.).

Upcoming Events

•
CIP "Walk Around"
With Bob & Stuart
Sunday March 9th, 1 PM
•

- Social Committee

Board Member - **Bob Sinclair**,
sinclair515@yahoo.com, cell 245-8788
Chairperson - **Nancy Batchelor**,
nmb@yahoo.com, cell 303-5826

The social committee is responsible for the different hospitality events (e.g. Holiday Party, Spring Event, Thursday Twilight Tennis) and they also work with the tennis committee when an evening function is associated with a tennis event (e.g. van Dillen, Calcutta dinner, etc.).

- Membership Committee

Board Member - **Melissa Smith**,
mhs10sgo@aol.com, home 697.8075
Committee Chairperson - **Ken March**,
kvmarch81@aol.com, home 347.7669

The membership committee reviews all the new applicants, organizes meet-n-greats and presents to the board each month a list of approved candidates for consideration to fill openings on the club roster.

- House & Grounds

Board Member - **Rob Delantoni**,
cvideo@aol.com, work 340.8455
Committee Chairperson - TBD

H&G works on a variety of issues impacting the club. For the past year the committee was focused on the CIP. As the CIP is coming to a conclusion H&G will need to begin focusing on issues that are still outstanding (e.g. roof, snack bar, etc.).

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- Finance

Board Member - Alan Klein,
akracer@aol.com, cell 867.6609

The club only forms a finance committee when a capital project is in planning. During normal operations, no committee is necessary. However, the club will be looking for someone to take over from Alan in 2009 once he serves out his final year of the board. If anyone with a finance background would be interested in working with Alan with the idea of possibly joining the PTC board in 2009, please speak to him.

- 75th Anniversary Gala

Board Member - Bob Sinclair,
sinclair515@yahoo.com, cell 245-8788
Chairperson - TBD

2008 marks the 75th Anniversary of the Peninsula Tennis Club and on Saturday, September 13th we are planning a day to remember the past and celebrate all that the PTC has become. The planning for this special day needs to start with finding a chairperson(s) to help start the organization and brainstorming. Please email Bob if you have any desire to either lead this effort or just to be part of the team.

As you can see from the above list, there is no shortage of opportunities to get involved. We all hope you can find some time in your busy lives to volunteer some time to join a committee.

Editor's Note

With the club celebrating our 75th anniversary this year, I have decided to include a Historical Perspective in the remaining 10 Drop Shots for 2008. I will be reaching out to some of our veteran members to help discuss the heritage of the PTC as seen from their eyes. Be sure to check out the first installment below; my visit with Bob & Betty Cookson.

Manager's Corner



Bill Jepsen

Please send to any year-end 2007 USTA rankings you would like included in the 2008 PTC roster to Bill (bill.jepsen@ptctennis.com)

The goal is to have the 2008 PTC rosters available by mid March for pick up at the PTC snack bar --- one per family.

During the final months of constructions please do not attempt to access the club through the construction entrance or next to court #7. There are too many hazards and we need to avoid anyone getting injured. There may be additional temporary entrances and we ask for your ongoing understanding of the situation.

We also ask for your patience with the parking challenges that we have created due to our project. Please be mindful not to park in BHS spots. You can look for parking on Lexington and Bloomfield as alternatives.

CIP News

With just two months left in the project, many of the different elements are beginning to take shape.

Least noticeable is the work going on in the locker rooms. All of the electrical, plumbing and sewer work has been completed. Currently we are installing sheetrock on all the walls and will commence with painting of these rooms in March. Roofers have been working to fill-in the old vents that have been removed and to seal the new ones that have been added.

Most notable has been the removal of the upper patio area that has caused us to temporarily close the BHS entranceway. The new deck has been poured, but the final finish is yet to be seen. We are applying a Bomanite stamped pattern to the deck and once fully cured in approximately three weeks our concrete sub-contractor will be back to apply a stain. During the curing process the entranceway will once again be open, but will close again for a couple of days during the staining process.

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Membership News

Our pool contractor has been busy applying the tile finish to the spa and the waterline tile around the pool. The coping has been installed as well around both areas. In the next couple of weeks they will begin the installation of the filters, heaters, and circulation pumps into the mechanical room. The last step will be to apply the plaster finish to the pool surface.

We finally heard from our friends at PG&E and work on the new gas and electrical service will commence in a couple of weeks. No firm date yet as to when we will again have hot water, but we will keep you posted.

Our concrete sub-contractor has been working on many of the elements around the pool / entertainment area. The new seat walls, retaining wall around the new planting area and other features are beginning to take shape. Over the next couple of weeks they will begin pouring the new decking around the pool.

By mid-March our tennis court contractor should be back on site focused on the resurfacing of the front courts. It will take approximately 6-7 weeks for them to complete all the work that needs to get done.

We are working hard on getting the front courts back into service by May 1st! No promises, but this is the goal we have set as we know we have USTA leagues that are anxious to host home matches.

One last item, on Sunday March 9th, Bob & Stuart are planning to hold a CIP "Walk Around" at 1 PM at the club. Conditions permitting we will take anyone attending out into the construction area to answer questions pertaining to the project and show you the work that has been completed.

Take a look at our webcam

www.ptctennis.com/courtcam to check up on the progress. Please do not hesitate to contact **Stuart Batchelor** (batchouse@gmail.com) or **Bob Sinclair** (sinclair515@yahoo.com) with any questions, comments or suggestions.

No member transactions this month.
We are still at 229 members.

Club Anniversaries for March (5+ years) Congratulations to the following members:

Stuart Coxhead	25 years
Sue & Brian Peletta	5 years
Jenny & Garrett Smith	5 years

Be sure to look for the 2008 Calendar of Events to be finalized this month and published in April's Drop Shot. We have many fun tournaments and social events lined up including at 75th Anniversary Gala in September.

USTA Northern California year-end rankings are in the PTC is well represented. Congratulations to the following members:

Senior Rankings

Tom Brown	M85's Singles	#4
Dennis Huajardo	M80's Singles	#15
Dennis Huajardo	M80's Doubles	#5
Dyle Anderson	M80's Doubles	#9
Rudy Giannini	M75's Singles	#15
Gerry Sydorak	M65's Singles	#23
Peter Grossman	M60's Doubles	#24
John Stone	M55's Singles	#11
Mark Campana	M40's Singles	#18
Linda Pene	W40's Singles	#3

NTRP Rankings

Phil Zlatunich	M3.5 Doubles	#25
Marci Martinucci	W4.0 Doubles	#15
Debbie Oldham	W4.0 Doubles	#15

Junior Rankings

Spencer Talmadge	B18's Singles	#17
Spencer Talmadge	B18's Doubles	#2
Sean Talmadge	B12's Singles	#22
Peter Campana	B10's Singles	#22
Brooke Tsu	G14's Singles	#15
Brooke Tsu	G14's Doubles	#11
Natalie Spievack	G12's Doubles	#15

The February 28th Yoga class with Jean Yves has been moved to March 6th. A new eight-week session will start on Thursday March 13th and run through May 1st. The time will remain the same - 7:15 PM to 8:30 PM. It will be the last series until September.

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Social Events News

The annual PTC Super Bowl party was a tremendous success. A big thank you to everyone who brought his or her award-winning chili. Good food, good drink, good game and good friends equals a winning combination.

Director of Tennis News

I just spent a great week at the SAP Open tennis Tournament in San Jose. From early morning till late at night I am in charge of running the ballkids teams that work all the matches from Qualifying Rounds right up to the Men's Doubles and Singles Finals on Feb 24th. Our very own team of ballkids worked the Finals and did a fantastic job. **Congratulations Team!**



Riaz Shivji

The tennis was great to watch up close and I spent time every other day hitting on the Latex Lite centre court put down at the HP Pavilion by our very own court contractors Vintage Court Company. Medium fast, great even bounce, and no dead spots. The blue/green court looked great at HP but I'm in favor of a green on dark green color for our courts here at PTC and think it looks more classic. It would blend in better with our traditional club look and feel.

Andy Roddick served his way to his third SAP Open title with a 6-4, 7-5 win over Czech Radek Stepanek in the Final. Even though Roddick won I was very impressed with Stepanek all week. He can't blow you away with big serve bombs like Roddick but club players can learn from his attacking all-court game. He spent all week disrupting the flow of opponents by mixing topspin drives with biting slices that moved his opponents around the court until he had them off balance and then he would strike by working his way to the net behind smart, penetrating approach shots to put away volleys with great technique and exceptional touch. Even though he lost in the final, his smart, controlled, and attacking game is beautiful to watch and learn from.

I'm sorry, but I wasn't impressed with Roddick. He was pissy all week and showed no class as he squabbled with umpires and had run-ins with oppo-

nents. His game is as you know based solely around his serve and if he didn't have that I don't think he would be in the top 30 in the world. There's nothing exceptional about running side to side ten feet behind the baseline chasing your opponents shots and grinding your way to the tie-break. I see that in boys 12's all the time and expect more from Andy.

The Bryan Bros were on fire all week and it took a lights out performance from former Stanford players Scott Lipsky and David Martin to douse the flames in the Finals. Martin especially was man of the match for me as he served huge and missed only two returns all match. Even though they lost I'm excited to hear that the brothers will be back for at least two more years and we will get to see them again. They are simply the best team in the world and their array of shots and volley spikes have to be seen. I call it "Smash and Crash" doubles. All in all a great week of tennis right here in our own back yard. Make sure you come out next year to support pro tennis in the Bay Area.

Coming up in March will be the Pacific Life Open in Palm Desert. All the top players will be there along with many PTC members I know that are going down to see the world-class tennis. Let's hope for some great weather too!

Junior Star Tennis has just started on Wednesdays at Laguna Park for children ages 7-11. It's not too late to sign up your Junior and is a great way to start your child playing the game and loving the sport. Times are 3:30-4:30 PM (Beg), and 4:30-5:30 PM (Beg/Nov). Clinics will run for ten more weeks.

Monday Academy is at Laguna Park for Juniors playing Open tournaments 3:30-5:30 PM.

Junior Academy is on Tuesdays for kids playing Novice and Challenger events 3:30-5:30 PM.

High School tennis just got under way and all of our Academy Juniors are involved at their schools. The first home match for BHS is on March 3rd versus Stuart Hall High School 3:30 PM. Come out and support our Juniors!

Welcome new PTC Junior members Nicholas Yee (Jr. Academy) and Brian Kyaw (Academy).

Summer Program dates will be announced soon!

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TENNIS NETIQUETTE:

SAFETY – Please make sure that you warn players on adjacent courts if a ball from your court is rolling onto it. A mishap can be avoided if you are aware of the situation and inform players that they could be in danger. Those players will be pleased that you had the presence of mind to warn them in time. Safety First!

CELL PHONES – Please make sure you turn your cell phone to the vibrate mode so as not to disturb play on other courts. It is also disrespectful to the players you are playing with if they have to wait for you to answer calls. Players waiting to play are also affected by your cell phone use. Thank You!

A Heritage Perspective – 75 Years

This Month: Bob & Betty Cookson



When one brings up the history of the club, there's always one family that immediately comes to mind. Celebrating their 50th anniversary as members this year, Bob & Betty Cookson have contributed a lifetime's worth not only to the PTC, but the tennis world as well.

Bob Cookson has twice served on the Board of Directors and as President of the PTC in 1963 and in 1980. Some of the club awards he has received include the Service to Tennis Award and the Family Achievement Award.

As Chairman of the Building Committee in 1964-65, Bob was responsible for getting club approval for our current clubhouse. It was a

long road to hoe Bob confesses. When he held the first member meeting to "sell" the plans for the proposed clubhouse, membership turned him down. He had no idea that he would have to be prepared for a "better selling job." Bob went back to the drawing board to put together a more comprehensive plan and finance package and tried it again six months later. When he presented it to membership the second time, he won approval convincingly, and the clubhouse was built. When asked if there was anything besides better presentation materials and a good financing package that helped to swing the vote, Bob said that it had to be the "wooden picnic table and benches." Back in the early 60's, after matches were completed, the participants would usually end up at the table for a beer and to talk tennis. In the revised proposal to membership, Bob said that unlike the first proposal, he made sure there was a spot for that table. To this day Bob says bringing back the table was the dealmaker. (John Stone, I guess we forgot that table during our Capital Improvement presentation four years ago)!

Aside from the many contributions Bob has given to our club, he has also spent over forty years holding every executive position, including the office of President for the Northern California Tennis Association, United States Tennis Association, Board of Directors for the International Tennis Hall of Fame, and Senior Vice-President for the International Tennis Federation.

For most spouses, Bob would be an impossible act to follow. That's not the case for Betty however. She has been awarded the Service to Tennis Award, the James B. Moffet Award, and the Family Achievement Award at the PTC. Betty became chairman of the National Junior Hard courts held at the club & high school in the 70's and helped turn the tournament into a National event. She has also been heavily involved with running the Nike Junior, Cal State Senior, and the Bonnell MCB Cup here at the club.

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For the past thirty years, Betty has also held numerous executive tennis positions outside the club. Organizations include USTA NorCal Tennis Association, USPTA Northern California, United States Tennis Association, Northern California Senior Tennis Association, Nike Junior Tour USA Masters and the NorCal Hall of Fame Selection Committee. Finally, both Bob & Betty have been inducted into the Northern California Tennis Hall of Fame.

If you think the Betty's organizational involvement in tennis is impressive, just take a look at what she accomplished on the courts. She was a seven-time Gold Ball winner and an eight-time Silver Ball winner during 1978-2003. As far as her USTA tennis rankings, she has held an amazing thirty-five top ten rankings, including the #1 ranking in 2003 & 2004 for the Women's 80 Doubles. For NorCal, Betty has held an equally amazing eleven #1 rankings for Women's 50's Doubles thru 70's Doubles.

After five decades at the club, the Cookson's have seen many changes. Asked what they missed the most, they responded by saying they missed the lack of participation of its members in individual tournament play as opposed to leagues (leagues came into being in 1989). PTC members played tournaments throughout California and the club was widely respected for its number of highly ranked players both young and old. PTC was the mecca for serious tennis players.

As I was leaving their residence, I walked by four impressive silver tennis cups. As it turned out, they were replicas of the Davis and Federation Cups; two large ones for winning and two smaller ones for the finalists which happened during Bob's term as President of the USTA in 1991 and 1992. Bob brought us some great teams back then. His 1992 Davis Cup Team included Andre Agassi, Pete Sampras, Jim Courier and John McEnroe. Tom Gorman was the captain.



Bob may have had his dream team in 1992, but we have been blessed for fifty years with the Cookson's... our dream family.



During the last two weeks of February the construction team took out the old concrete on the upper patio.



The patio is prepped for new concrete. New footing for each posts were created.



Once the concrete is poured a worker spreads out a color additive that is worked into the top layer of the concrete.

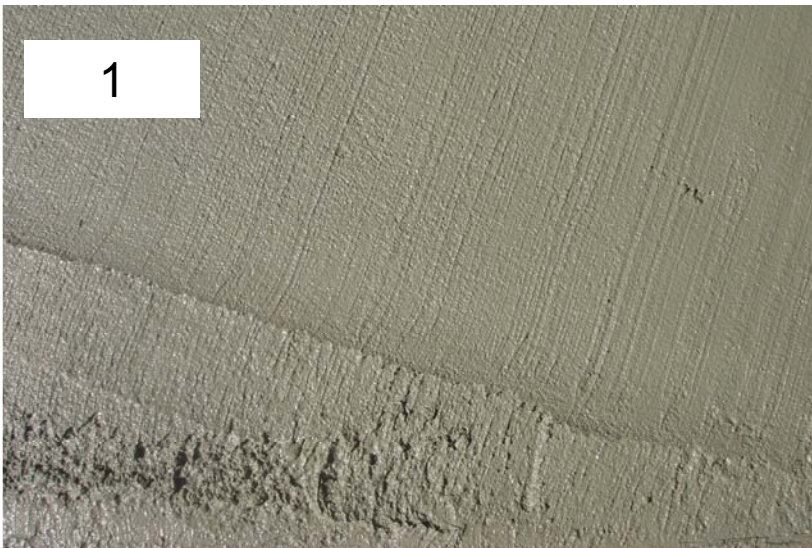


After the concrete begins to set-up workers use a rubber mat (stamp) that has a design imprinted on the underside.

Multiple stamps are laid out and with the use of a stomped the imprint is transferred to the concrete.

Workers touch up around the edges to complete the pattern.





The design of the upper patio takes multiple steps to complete.

- 1. Concrete is poured and smoothed out.**



- 2. A color additive is spread over the surface and worked into the concrete.**



- 3. A stamp is used to create a pattern in the cement.**

- 4. In approximately three weeks a stain will be added to complete the look.**



Due to the concerns of some members we took the necessary action to increase the number of steps in the pool and to widen the top step.



Top photo - rebar was used to create the new design of the steps.

Middle photo – final result showing 5 steps versus the previous 4. The blue line is a row of tile that defines the edges of each step.



Bottom photo – our freshly tiled spa and coping stones.