

# The Drop Shot

Official Newsletter of the Peninsula Tennis Club



*Anniversary  
Edition  
1933 ~ 2008*



## September 2008

### President's Update



Stuart Batchelor

**Honoring the Past, Present, & Future of the PTC.** 2008 marks the 75th Anniversary of the Club and on September 13th we will honor our past while enjoying our new facilities and look to the future of the great things to come. I especially hope that all the new members that have joined the PTC over the past three years can attend the Gala to hear the wonderful stories that our long term members will enjoy sharing with you.

### Editor's Note

I hope you enjoy this 75th Anniversary Commemorative issue of the Drop Shot. It features many memories, both in photos and in words by our long-time members. I would like to thank all of the members who contribute to this newsletter on a monthly basis, and especially my Drop Shot partner **Dennis Mayer** for producing our finest issue yet.



Jeff Tateosian

### Upcoming Events

**PTC 75th Anniversary Celebration Week**

September 10-13

**PTC Backgammon Tournament**

Wednesday Sept. 10 2:00 PM

**PTC Gin Rummy Tournament**

Thursday Sept. 11 5:30 PM

**PTC Poker Tournament**

Friday Sept. 12 2:00 PM

**PTC Team Tennis Tournament**

Saturday Sept. 13 9:00 AM

**PTC 75th Gala Anniversary**

Saturday Sept. 13 6:30 PM

As you know by now, the PTC will honor our 75th Anniversary with a week-long celebration next week. A lot of work has been put into planning the social activities and especially the Gala Dinner/Dance. There is still time to sign up for each of the activities. I am looking forward to seeing both old and new members coming together to make this a truly memorable event.

### 75 Years at PTC

This year marks the 75th Anniversary of the Bay Area's best-kept secret. Located in

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Burlingame, the Peninsula Tennis Club was founded by twenty or so local tennis enthusiasts who had decided to form their own club. Starting in 1930, they paid 25 cents per month for a few years to help fund the purchase of land where the facility sits today. The Club became official in 1933 when eighteen members attended a pre-incorporation meeting, at which time the name **Peninsula Tennis Club** and a set of resolutions was adopted.

**The PTC started with just three courts.** A small clubhouse and two additional courts were added in 1947. In the mid 50's, the Club added a large swimming pool and many other improvements. The last two courts, a second swimming pool and a spacious new clubhouse were completed in the early 60's. The facility served its members well until father time started to catch up to the Club. 2007 marked the start of a new 2.4 million dollar capital improvement facelift. Completed in May of 2008, the club is full of energy and ready to serve its membership for decades to come.

**Many tournaments have been held at the Club over the years.** From 1949 to 1989, the Club hosted the prestigious USTA National Junior Hardcourt Championships. *Stan Smith, Jimmy Connors, Michael Chang, John McEnroe, Pete Sampras, Billy Jean Moffit (King) and Rosie Casals* are some of the well-known young players who participated in the National Hardcourts and who went on to top pro careers. Together, these seven players have won 98 Grand Slams and nearly 700 ATP tournaments. This doesn't even count the Davis Cup or Wrightman Cup victories. The PTC has also played host each year to the California State Senior Championship since 1952.

**The Peninsula Tennis Club has always been proud of their Pro Championship-**

**caliber members.** *Erik Van Dillen* (U.S. Davis Cup Team 1969-1976, Ranked #1 in Men's Doubles 1971-1973), *Ann (Kiyomura) Hayashi* (Wimbledon Doubles Champion 1975), *Gordy Stroud* (Canadian Davis Cup Team 1963) and *Tom Brown* (U.S. Davis Cup Team 1946, 1950, 1953, Wimbledon Doubles & Mixed Doubles Champion 1946) are some of the prominent members. Nationally, *Dyle Anderson* (National 80 Doubles Champion 2001 & 2002, National 85 Doubles Champion 2006), *Betty Cookson* (Ranked #1, #2, or #3 in 55 Doubles, 60 Doubles & 65 Doubles from 1972-1989), and the recently deceased *Ken Beer* (Double Grand Slam 80 Doubles & 85 Doubles in 1985, 1987 & 1988) represent the PTC in the finest tradition of tournament play.

**A milestone was reached in 1983 as the club celebrated its 50th Anniversary** and was honored as the **Club-of-the-Year** by the United States Tennis Association. During the next 25 years, PTC has continued with a strong membership and commitment to tennis excellence. Happy 75th Birthday PTC, you're young and going strong!

### Manager's Corner



Lona Means

**Please welcome our new PTC manager, Lona Means.**

She started a couple of days ago and is quickly getting up to speed. Her schedule will be Tuesday thru Saturday and you can reach her at 347-1439 or by her email [manager@ptctennis.com](mailto:manager@ptctennis.com). Be sure to stop by and introduce yourself the next time you are at the club. We'll include a full bio on her in next month's Drop Shot.

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## Tennis Activities News



Becky Showen

**September is upon us and that means Gala Team Tennis is almost here.** The 48 entries have been filled and we currently have a waiting list for both the Men's and Ladies draws. The tournament will be a lot of fun, so everyone is

encouraged to come down and watch. September 13th is the date. Players should report at 8:30 AM. Play starts at 9:00 AM and will likely continue until about 3:00 PM (just in time for everyone to return home and get gussied up for the Gala event that evening). See you on the 13th!

**The date for the Mixed Doubles Championship** (currently scheduled for Oct. 11-12) is going to be rescheduled. We'll announce the new date shortly.

## Membership News

**Please help us welcome our newest member/family**

**Ken & Kerry Mahrer.** Ken is a 4.5 player and a physician by trade. He has played for years, including his college years at UCSB. His wife Kerry also plays - at a 3.5 level. When not on the courts, she takes care of their two kids, McKenna (7) & Megan (5). It's all in the family as Ken is **Alan Klein's** brother-in-law.



## Club News

**The PTC had a nice showing in the**

**recently concluded California State Senior Championships.** Eighteen members participated and produced three finals winners. Congratulations to **Erik van Dillen** for winning a thrilling finals match in the Men's 55 Doubles. Congratulations also goes to **Dyle Anderson and Austin Sellery** for outlasting their opponents to win the Men's 85 Doubles. As they have done for years, **Steve Brooks and Betty Cookson** put together another great tournament. Thank you to all of the PTC volunteers for their time in helping to make this such a success.

**Club Anniversaries for September 5+ yrs**

Congratulations to the following members:

**Patrick & Barb Fallon**                      **5 Years**  
**Susan & Michael Lynch**                **5 Years**

**The PTC would like to thank the 28 members who played in the BCE Tennis Tournament on Labor Day.** The event was organized by our own **Don Clark** and helped raise over \$7,000 for the Burlingame Elementary Schools. In Men's Doubles, **Rick Deming** & partner beat **Mark Percy & Ron Martinucci** for the championship. **Jim Sobel & Chris Cooke** defeated **Scott With** & partner in the Men's Doubles Consolation. **Kay Coskey & Devi Ananda** battled a good draw to come in second in the Women's Doubles. For the Mixed Doubles Championship, **Marisa Wachhorst** & partner played their best but were beaten for the title. Finally, **David & Jill Andrews** defeated **Don & Sharon Bartels** in the Mixed Doubles Consolation. *Special thanks to Riaz & his crew for handling the game-day tournament.*

**The fall Yoga session with Jean Yves will begin on September 11th** and run until November 13th. The classes will be held on Thursday evenings from 7:15 PM until 8:30 PM inside the clubroom. For more information, please contact Jean at 415-336-8577.

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## USTA News

**Our Senior 8.0 mixed team** is still in first place with two matches left to play. **The fall league season for USTA is about to begin.** The Women's 7.5 Combo has gotten underway, but there are four Senior teams now forming. They are:

- ~ Senior Men's 3.0  
(*Stuart Batchelor & Phil Marson* captains)
- ~ Senior Men's 4.0  
(*Gerry Sydorak & Ken March* captains)
- ~ Senior Women's 3.5  
(*Nancy Chew* captain)
- ~ Senior Women's 4.0  
(*Louise Tierney & Linda Pene* captains)

*If you are 50 + and interested in joining any of these teams, please contact the perspective captains.*

**Congratulations to Betty Cookson for winning the USTA Women's Grass Court Doubles Championships for 85's in Philadelphia this past July.**

**Congratulations to Gerry Sydorak for winning the consolation event at the Men's 65 National Indoors for both singles and doubles in San Francisco last month.**

## Social Events News



*Nancy Batchelor*

**The big story on the social calendar is the 75th Anniversary Gala happening on Saturday, September 13.** Invitations were sent in the mail to the membership outlining the various events during the celebration week.

The Saturday night Gala celebration is black tie (optional) and begins at 6:30 pm in the

Clubhouse. Enjoy cocktails, an hors d'oeuvre buffet with music and dancing, while sharing memories with long-standing members. *RSVP is required by Monday, Sept. 8th. Sign up in the clubroom, email [manager@ptctennis.com](mailto:manager@ptctennis.com) or call 347-1439.*

**Reminder, the September Twilight Tennis** originally scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 25 has been canceled.

## House & Grounds News



*Rob Delantoni*

**As for this month, the long-awaited exercise room switch is now complete.** Thanks to *Bob Sinclair, Stuart Batchelor, Rich Schoustra, Kelly Kemp, Ron Martinucci and Jeff*

*Tateosian* working on Labor Day, the new exercise room is open for business where the old Junior Room was by the BBQ's. We expect to add some new exercise equipment in the near future. Enjoy the new spacious room that even comes with a view.

**Our courts now have permanently painted marks in the doubles alley** for placement of the singles sticks for tournament play. See if you can find them.

**The clubhouse roof and the flat roof over the locker rooms** will have repair & maintenance work done on them this week as part of the CIP project.

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## Director of Tennis News



Riaz Shivji USPTA

For this special 75th Anniversary Edition of our Drop Shot, I wanted to first extend a heartfelt thank you to all PTC members who have volunteered their time and effort in helping the club grow and prosper in its first 75 years of existence. We are now enjoying the fruits of their labor and we need to continue in their footsteps so the club can be enjoyed for the next 75 years. There are too many of them to mention, but it is because of our member volunteers that this great club of ours has sustained and managed to grow and prosper.

**Pam Stroud** was the manager when I started here in 2000 and she was instrumental in helping me get the tennis program jump started and moving forward. The Tennis Program grew and new players were encouraged to come out to play. Mixers and Socials were added to the Calendar and tennis for everyone at PTC was booming.

My first day on the job as PTC Tennis Pro, I had a female member tell me that her group would use court # 7 every Monday morning and that I was not to use that court unless I spoke with her first! On the same day another member expressed disdain that the club had hired a tennis pro. The woman is now a regular in my clinics and has been a very loyal student for over five years. I can use court # 7 any time she tells me. This gentleman now takes a lesson occasionally and gets what Riaz and RS Academy means to the PTC and it's tennis players, both young and old. **Gordy Stroud**

mentioned to me that I should share Court # 1 with a couple of select members to get in their good graces. It worked!! **Roy Evars** and **Torry Bryant** took me under their wings and taught me many things about life and tennis in that order.

I started working with one Junior and we worked together almost every day. Once when I was giving him a lesson on court 4, we heard Mary's voice over the intercom and she was relaying the usual announcement about the snack bar closing...you know the one that starts, "attention members, the snack bar will close in 10 minutes. Well, we looked at each other and started to crack up because we were the only people at the club. Good Times!

The Junior Program has been revamped and RS Tennis Academy has been in charge of the Junior group training program since 2003. Now we have a large group of Junior members not only playing competitive tennis, but learning some of the very important life skills that the sport teaches. Commitment, dedication, hard work, sportsmanship, teamwork, and respect are just a few of the things that are addressed and coached at all times in our STAR and ACADEMY programs. 2008 was our most successful year to date. We had six teams playing Junior Team Tennis in all the age groups offered and the Summer Tennis Program was another huge hit.

The Tennis Program has evolved and we now have many USTA teams representing the PTC and competing out there in League play. Some of our members play Senior Tournaments, NTRP events, Junior Tournaments, and our young players are tackling the USTA Junior circuit, and general member play is beginning to pick up again.

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All this from a little seven-court facility in Burlingame, CA – brilliant! I hear back in the day that the PTC was a place where you could catch some great tennis and the courts were full most of the time. It is a different time now and our club is still plenty busy. Our membership is changing and growing with many new members in the last few years.

I hope we can make the growth of **tennis** at the PTC our # 1 goal and to steer the club moving in that direction.

### ***Happy 75th Peninsula Tennis Club!***

Riaz Shivji USPTA  
Director of Tennis  
(650) 347-1440  
riaz@rstennis.com

## The Question Man

***We asked long-time members to share their most memorable moments at the club.***

***Valerie Schmidt*** (55 years at the PTC)  
I spent so much time at the club when I was a child I was asked to join. My sponsors were Herb Lauder, Margaret Wederetz, and Bill Sherrard. Besides all the tennis I played . . . I loved the snack bar and the swimming pool. I watched the first pool being built. It was very exciting at the time. I played in the National Junior Hardcourt Championships many times, but couldn't compete against the out of towners . . . they were really good. All the time I spent at the PTC certainly helped shape me as a person. I learned sportsmanship and how to behave at a "club." I have made many wonderful friendships from other members

of the club.

### ***Ed Brown*** (47 years)

Of course it had to be the many National Junior Hardcourt Championships that we hosted for years! All of the top players to "be" were here to be seen. There was a very special "aire" around the club that time of year. Tennis buffs came for miles, the ladies of the club made delicious sandwiches that were a big hit, the camaraderie of the club members was at its highest and most every member pitched in to make the event a success.

### ***Bard Dowse*** (39 years)

It was the spirit of the club working together, especially during the National Junior Hardcourt Championships that were held at the club. Every member had some function or responsibility during the tournament. Without a lot of money to spend in the older days, the House & Grounds Chairman would call up members to help with the general maintenance and repairs of the club.

### ***Pam Stroud*** (36 years)

I do remember that in the late '50s, probably 1958 or 1959, some of the men would get out with us kids on the front courts on Saturday or Sunday mornings and do clinics – feeding balls to us. ***Phil Garlington***, the man who later became my stepfather, was one of those who participated. I remember he challenged us to hit him and I was gleeful when I managed to do it.

### ***Duncan Beardsley*** (33 years)

We aren't really old timers though we have been members for 33 years (the club was 42 years old at the time). ***Sydney Pritchard*** was the first to ask us to join – who can forget his rooster walk serves. I always assumed that it was designed to be a distraction to whoever was receiving. As

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potential members, **Pat & Bob Meyers** invited us down for a let the club meet us game. We were intimidated as Bob played the entire game with one hand in his pocket. He doesn't recall it, but we sure do.

In our early days there were still founding members of PTC and one in particular strolled around the courts as if he owned the Club. **Tom Ryan** and I were on Court 3 playing our usual singles games. We will never forget in the middle of a very tense game seeing the ÅownerÅh stroll along the net of Court 1, then Court 2 and continue right across Court 3 as if we were not even there. I have no recollection as to what he was doing, but Tom and I both lost total concentration for the game. In the early days **Cathy** played a lot more tennis than I did. We have a number of PTC Tournament prizes around the house with her name on them. There aren't any that have my name on them! The Tuesday Night Dinners were a lot of fun and we were considered the younger set then. They were organized by one couple and the social committee had the task of trying to compete with their success.

We were honored to be members when **Betty Cookson** ran the Junior Hardcourts at PTC for all ages, both boys and girls. Housing some of the players was always great fun. Fortunately our neighbors let them practice on their court which was a highlight until one of the boys discovered pot growing in the side lot and thought it was his for the taking and the other thought it should be reported to the police.

Sometime in the 80's the Club got a shock in the form of a call from the bank saying that a very significant balloon payment was due. Somehow it hadn't been logged in Board/Treasurer records and no one was

anticipating it. I think it was **Bill Hill** that worked us through the crisis. (Note to the current Board – Please don't let that happen again). I served on the Board as Treasurer (fortunately having no major mishaps) during the reign of **Leonard Yerkes**. I suspect that was the only year that the President's Ball was a Black Tie event. I doubt if PTC would do that these days.

**Steve Brooks** (33 years)

One memory was when **Herb Lauder** had the flag pole down and was painting it silver. He was painting and walking backwards down the pole until he stepped into the Jacuzzi. Falling backwards he held the paint can in the air as he went under the can was still upright and above water. Not a drop was spilled. The other moment was on a cold early morning in winter I was playing on court one and saw **Ted Davis** walking between the two pools watching the point on court two. He walked right into the cold pool. Once we fished him out and found he was OK the laughter began.

**Bill Campana** (31 years)

My memories of the club were: Getting involved and hosting players during the National Junior Hardcourt Championships and seeing many of them go on to fame, such as Jennifer Capriati, Pete Sampras and Michael Chang. Seeing our children learn to play tennis and make lasting friendships at PTC. Getting the opportunity to play and to know better some of the Juniors during the Junior/Senior tournaments and the parties that followed. Playing in the gin rummy, domino, and more recently, poker tournaments. A great way to get to know other members of the club socially, aside from tennis.

**Gerry Sydorak** (27 years)

There have been many memorable



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moments for me as a PTC club member. Watching my two sons develop there as Junior tennis players and playing with them in the Van Dillen doubles tournaments has been one of them. I got to three finals with my older son Andrew and each time wound up losing to the Campana brothers in three sets. I won the one time I played with my younger son Roman; unfortunately the Campana's lost in the other semifinal draw; therefore, there was no opportunity to revenge the losses. One memorable episode occurred in 1988 when the National 18 Junior Hardcourt Championships were still played at PTC. We were housing my younger son's national doubles partner who was on the US Junior Davis Cup team. Pete Sampras, who was playing in the tournament was a close friend of the boy we were housing. I had the opportunity to have lunch with Pete at the club and discuss tennis and life in general with him. I specifically recall thinking that he was exceptionally well brought up and friendly. At that time, he was only 16 and still hadn't attained his full height and powerful serve and volley game. Although, our whole family rooted for him, he lost a close finals match to an unusually quick and gifted Michael Chang. Nobody thought at that time the Pete would go on to win a record number of Major Pro Tournaments and become one of the greatest tennis players in history.

### **Peter Webb** (25 years)

When we joined the club a "professional" photo was taken of our family – dressed in tennis whites. **Hank Guilmette** did the photography for each of the new members, and we still prize the 12x14 matted print. As often happens with children, our toddler son had gotten sick right before the shot...so he looks pretty ragged.

### **Dennis Huajardo** (23 years)

My memories of the club evolve around the days when the club was a true family club. There was a true intimacy at the club where everyone got involvement & participated in the activities.

### **Bob Randolph** (22 years)

A few years ago, **Ken Beer** asked me to play him singles. Ken was probably in his mid 90's at the time. I said I would and we started the match. Each time Kenny served he would try to come in and volley. Frankly, he wasn't that agile or fleet of foot at that age and so it was quite easy to pass him. After the match I said, "Ken, I think you are much tougher when you stay back and hit those great ground strokes rather than trying to serve and volley." He said, "yes, I know, but how am I going to learn?" That statement epitomized Ken Beer, who was working on something new at age 95! He was truly inspirational to all of us.

### **Bob Reisfeld** (22 years)

My most memorable moment at the club was when I, and my family first became members. It was in 1986. We had only recently moved to Burlingame (from San Francisco), and were new to the city and the Peninsula. I was playing a lot of tennis then, and very much wanted a place to play and friends to play with. My wife, **Leslie**, and I also felt like foreigners in our new neighborhood. I had accepted a job with Kaiser in Redwood City, and we bought our house without having a great deal of time to learn the area. The first time I took a walk around the block, (our house is in the cul du sac on Lexington Way) I felt like I had found the Emerald City. There, at the end of my block, was a tennis club! We were lucky enough to meet **Jim & Mary Craig** who were neighbors and who offered to sponsor us. We were accepted, and we

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have been members ever since. The PTC offered us tennis, swimming, friends, and a feeling of community. It continues to offer us all of these wonderful benefits to this day!

**Lisa Rogers** (20 years + family member)  
My family joined the Peninsula Tennis Club in 1963. We took tennis lessons and went swimming all of the time. The highlight of Junior Day was the greased watermelon match where boys would attempt to get the watermelon out of the pool. There was always a huge mess. I recall two of the life-guards, Stan the Man and Big Bob Burmeister. These young men would hold court by the pool with many of the teenagers every day of the summer. The best times during the 60's were during the National Junior Hardcourt Championships. My family housed players, attended barbecues and when we were old enough, we kids got to go to the dance! Fun times for all!

During the 70s, a large group of sophisticated high school kids (like me!) ate lunch at the club every day of the school year. The old Junior clubroom was huge, and far away from the Senior clubroom. We blasted the radio until **Herb Lauder** came down and yelled at us. We always played cards at lunch, usually Hearts. And we had a lot of laughs. In the late 80s, the Rogers' family became new members of the PTC. Our kids were little then. We would encircle the tots with inner tubes and water wings and take turns playing tennis. We played tennis with my parents, **Jack and Lois Bergstrom**, and with lots of their friends. In the early 90s, there weren't too many youngsters around the PTC. We often had the whole pool area to ourselves on weekend summer afternoons. The membership started getting a bit younger in the late 90's. There were

lots more members with kids and our PTC social world opened up. The 00's have been a blast. Bill and I started playing on teams and I participated on committees and on the board. We got to know a lot of great people, play lots of fun tennis and go to some great parties. We have had great times with all of our PTC friends and we hope to meet lots more of our new members and continue the fun.

**Cris Mangar** (16 years)  
In the year 2000 when I was President of the Board, it was quite a memorable year. Planning for the future and starting the PTC long range planning committee with **Roy Evars** was a good start towards developing the club renovation process. Countless tennis events with unforgettable PTC members make up for most memorable moments.

**Mark Showen** (15 years)  
One of my favorite moments was actually when I was a kid (my family were members). There was a very grumpy snack bar lady who had been there for many years. She was getting worried because the "ZeroBar" candy bars weren't selling well, and she had quite a large supply. She started marking them down a nickel every few days and still no one bought them. Finally she had to throw them out. Of course no sooner had she disposed of them than all the Junior members took turns going up to the snack bar and asking for a "ZeroBar, please." This led to a great clacking of her dentures and a fierce scolding. It doesn't sound so funny now but we thought it was hilarious at the time!

**Jim Fregosi** (11 years)  
I remember the first summer when my boys were playing loudly by the pool and **Charlie Nichols** coming up to talk to them. Much

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to my surprise, instead of yelling at the Fregosi kids, he introduced himself and told them about sportsmanship and club etiquette. We'll never forget that. We were one of the Club's youngest members when we joined and I had trouble getting games. I started to hit with 90 year old **Paul Steiner**, then 80 year old **Dyle Anderson**, then moved to 70 year olds **Dennis Huajardo** and **Al Reiner**. After proving I could hit with the older guys, the games started to come a little easier.

**Linda Pene** (10 years)

It would have to be "Men of the PTC," a mostly shirtless calendar with foldout models that was given to **Linda Benvenuto** as a special 50th birthday gift. The male models included **Gerry Sydorak, Glenn Mendelson, Steve Benvenuto Sr, Jim Fregosi, Mike Amaroli, Kenny March, Jeff Tsu, Gordon Nagare, John Stone, Rudy Giannini, Gordy Stroud, Riaz Shivji, Steve Wong** (sprawled out on top of piano in the clubhouse) and **Torry Bryant/Steve Brooks** (wearing nothing but shower towels & holding a beer). It was the most cherished gift Linda had ever received. We naturally followed that up with "Women of the PTC," a foldout calendar for **Steve Brooks** on his birthday. Each model was sporting a cell phone while in the club, a real pet peeve of Steve's. I also hear the tops were on all of these models.

**Patty Rossi** (10 years)

Rather than having one or two memorable moments – I cherish all the special friends I've made and countless fun times I've had during my years at PTC. We have an awesome club!

**Jeff Tsu** (8 years)

Some years ago when I was a new member in between sets, I asked a more senior member what he would be wearing to that

evening's party at PTC. Before I asked that question, it was in the back of my mind that it was a dress-up affair. What he said to me was that he would be wearing his tuxedo. So based on that I decided I would I wear my tuxedo to the party too. That evening six of us wore tuxedos. He and I and the four waiters!!! Boy, did we get ribbed that night.

**Jane Percy** (6 years)

One of our most memorable moments is the van Dillen dinner with the Karaoke Machine. We listened to many a club member croak out a tune when up to the mic stepped **Phillip Rossi**. He blew us away with his singing; so much so that we all got up and danced! What a treat that was! At the PTC we tend to measure fellow members by their tennis, but most members have hidden talents that we'll never know about (have you seen **Rudy Giannini** on the dance floor?) Bring back the Karaoke!

**Joni Amaroli** (5 years + Jr. member)

I remember the good old days at the PTC being a Junior member in the mid 70's. I lived at the Club in the summer and played tennis for hours every single day. I rode my bike there usually by 9:00 AM and stayed until 6:00 PM every single day. I enjoy the memories of playing with **John Robertson, Greg Cody, Richard Stirm, Ward Dresser, Kevin Delehanty, Kathy Floyd, and Abby Jackson**. I remember Peggy, the snack bar lady. She scared us and we would always be afraid to order those fabulous hot dogs with the crunchy skin. They were the best and worth the "crabby" remarks from Peg. The PTC was the perfect place for us high school kids. It kept us busy and out of trouble. We had so much fun just hanging out.

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### **Lee Bradford – former Drop Shot editor (27 years)**

I guess I have always been what Australians call "a sticky beak" – a curious and somewhat nosy person. So when I, a former society, travel, golf, and mystery writer, volunteered to do the Drop Shot a few years back, it wasn't purely altruistic. The newsletter fulfilled a need in me to ask questions, find out things, and write about it. True, I tended toward gossipy trivia – like members' birthdays, anniversaries, achievements and trips. But Pam Stroud, manager at the time, and Riaz, our peppy pro, reined me in with plenty of bare-bones clubby data.

Tennis, and the people you meet through it, has been my favorite interest since I was 16, learning the game on grass at our neighborhood Longwood Cricket Club, in Chestnut Hill, Mass. A potent incentive was the resumption there in 1946 of the first National Doubles held after World War II. All the best players of the day came to compete – Kramer, Schroeder, Don Budge, Gardnar Mulloy, and that year's firecracker-like sensation, Tom Brown. The Frisco Flailer" (as the press called him), was hot off two Wimbledon doubles wins (with Jack Kramer, and Louise Brough), plus an incredible run at the singles. I was one of his autograph hounds. Little did I know that half a century later a tennis event at the PTC would bring us together in prime time.

In the early 50s, I moved to San Francisco where my first smart move was to join the California Tennis Club. In 1960 I married Bob Brady and because he was with an airline we moved to Burlingame to be closer to the airport. He didn't play sports, I missed tennis, and since I'd resigned from the Cal Club naturally I applied to the PTC. In

those days, a member of the membership committee would come around personally to your home to size you up. Luckily, I passed inspection and found games here (in the strictly limited hours for women) most enjoyable with the likes of Jane Dunbar, Del Nichols, Beth Guilmette, Doris Stirm, etc. We'd be thrilled when Sardis Farmer would enlist us in "mixed." We were in awe of the club's best woman player, Betty Cookson. And how proud we were of the PTC for two weeks every summer when the National Juniors came to town. There was a special esprit de corps then – we'd all pitch in to make sandwiches and brownies for the hungry lot, chauffeur the youngsters from their hosted homes, etc. Bing Crosby was emcee one of those years. Some of those young players went on to make tennis history – Jimmy Connors, Pancho Gonzalez, Brian Gottfried. Member Hank Guilmette got them all down on film while they were 18 and under.

In 1967, my marriage broke up. I resigned from the PTC and moved back to San Francisco where dogs (I had two) were welcome, and tennis was included in the rent at the Golden Gateway! Again I got married, to Dick Bradford. Gateway rent suddenly took a quantum leap, so down we came for another go at Burlingame where the rents were a lot less. Of course I applied for PTC membership again.

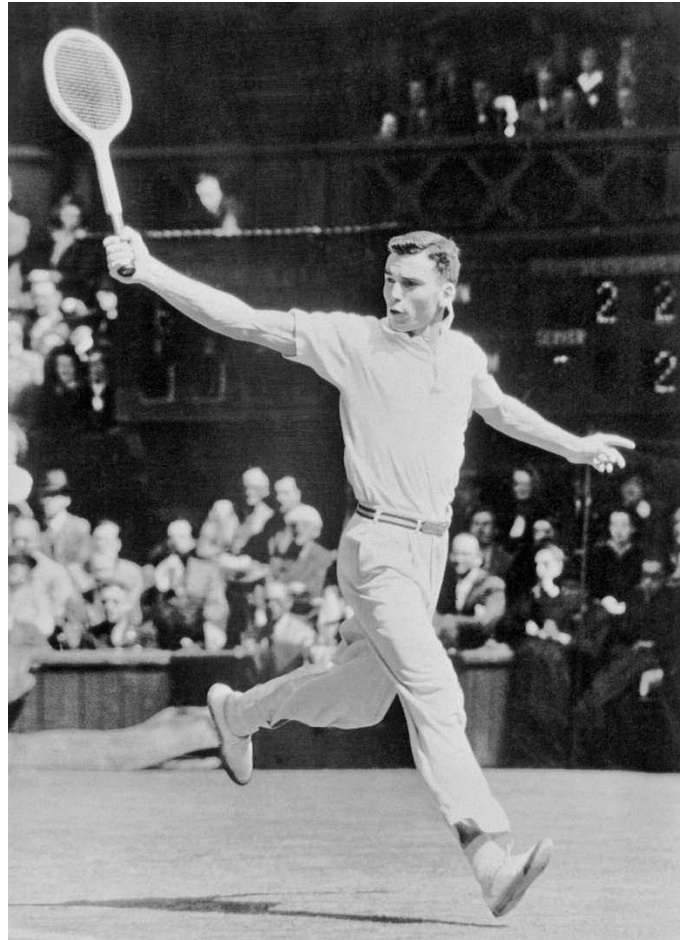
Unfortunately, that marriage was doomed by his incurable illness, but how grateful I was for the PTC being a safe place to bring him where he could play cards and be with friendly guys while I enjoyed respites with tennis with Ellis Garlington, Gracie Shepherd, Rosemary Marcinak. When Dick died, the club's flag was lowered to half-mast. I had never really noticed this club's traditional tribute to members before and was very touched.

## The Drop Shot ~ Official Newsletter of the Peninsula Tennis Club

I dropped the PTC membership then for about 30 years – in pursuit of a sea change to golf. But tennis was always in the background, and as golf became more expensive and the courses more crowded and less fun, for the third time around I applied for membership here. With age, oddly, my playing circle became a lot wider. These gals included Doris Moorhead (before her untimely death), Marion Chioffi, Thelma Kronhout, Gene Sullivan, Gayle Hansen, Daisy Kwan, June Randolph.

For some years, now, PTC has hosted the California State Seniors, and it was there in 2001, as an enthusiastic spectator, that I re-met Tom Brown, with whom I now live. The PTC has truly become "a second home" for both of us – a welcoming place to come to just about every day. We find the big screen in the clubhouse a natural conduit for uniting members during the various major tournaments shown on TV. The snack bar, with our irrepressible Mary in charge, continues to be our favorite lunch place with its simple but generous fare, and extremely reasonable prices.

Specifics of the years I did the Drop Shot have faded into memory, but I enjoyed it all while it lasted – and it sure was fun to play "girl reporter."



Tom Brown 1946



Tom Brown & Lee Bradford 2007



Ken Beer

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Ann (Kiyomura) Hayashi



Ken Beer  
Jennifer Capriati



Bob Cookson



Tom Gorman  
Erik van Dillen



Roscoe Tanner



Betty Cookson



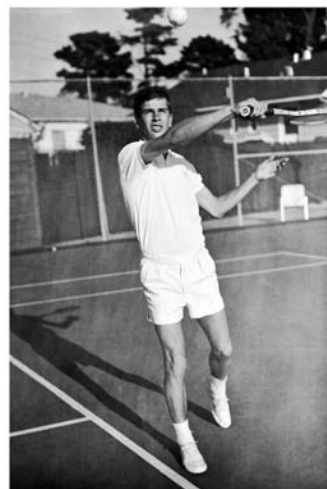
Harold Soloman  
Susan Anton  
Jimmy Connors



Zina Garrison



Pancho Gonzalas



Erik van Dillen



Michael Chang

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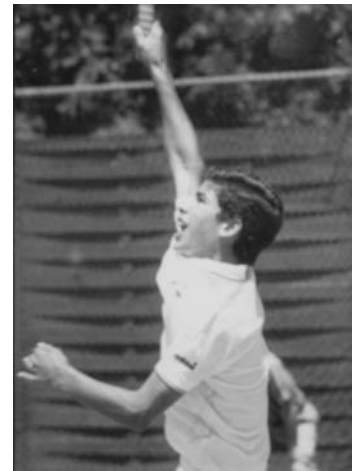
Billy Jean King



Kelly Henry  
Betty Cookson  
Pam Shriver



Rosie Casals



Pete Sampras



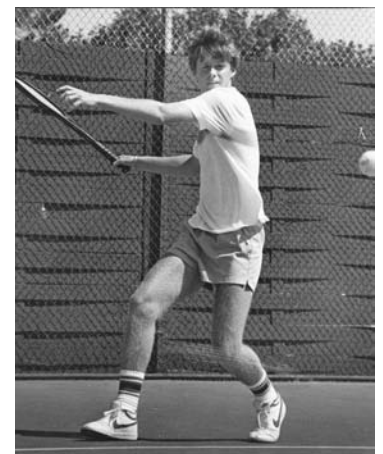
Erik, Scott, Torry, & Bill



Murphy Jenson  
Chris Garner



Richy Leach



Patrick McEnroe



Jimmy Connors



Joel, Sally, Jim, Pam,  
& Betty Cookson



Bing Crosby



Luke Jensen

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