

PTC Drop Shot

January 2024

Upcoming Events

Sunday, February 11th

Sunday, March 17th

Saturday, April 13th

Tuesday, April 16th

Sunday, May 5th

Friday, May 10th

Superbowl Party & Chili Cook Off

Pizza & Pros – Family Day

Spring Fling – Mixed Doubles & Cocktail Party

Quarterly Membership Meeting

Parent/Child Trap Tennis Event

Ladies Doubles Tournament

President's Message: *Marty Funk*

I hope you all enjoyed the holidays! It's been tough working off the extra baggage so far this year with the cold and rain, but when the weather cooperates, the courts are filling, and our membership is back to friendly friendlies, friendly rivalries, lessons, and grudge matches.

2023 was a very busy year for the Club. If I were to pin a phrase for it, I'd say "always moving forward." Our long-time manager, **Lona Means**, retired at the beginning of the year and that left a void for us. She'd done her job so well for so long that we were a bit lost on who and how to replace her. In steps **Paul Miller**. He brought the right attitude and has made the job his own. Thanks Paul!

We used Paul's arrival as a catalyst to, well, move forward. With a huge amount of time and effort, **Steve Livingston** and Paul have retooled the operations of the club. **Doug Heffernan** has jumped into looking into a long-term fix for the front courts as well as an (ongoing) search for the mysterious water leaks. Our social and tennis chairs (**Carey Welsh** and **Steven Oliver**) didn't disappoint with great events all year long. Our membership and waitlist are strong, and we should thank **Kris Willig** for her thoughtful consideration whenever we were considering new members. Finally, **Beth Francesconi** has continued to provide insight and thoughtful leadership to Board topics throughout her tenure. This is just a fraction of the great work this Board has done on your behalf, and I urge you to thank them the next time you see them.

The 2024 Board will pick up where this one left off, and no doubt will have new topics to discuss and issues to solve. Please do your best to continue your support for each and all with the understanding that this group, just like every board that has preceded, has first and foremost the interest of the Club in mind. We all don't always agree, but let's stick to "always move forward" as the first goal.

I'm at the tail end of serving as your Club president and I want to thank you all for another year of your commitment to individually and collectively working to make our little treasure in Burlingame an even better place to come to. But the job is never done, and I urge you all to support our next president, Carey Welsh, and the Board she'll lead in 2024 just as you've supported the 2023 Board.

Manager: *Paul Miller*

Editor's Note: *Jeff Tateosian*

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our 2023 Board members as well as our manager **Paul Miller** & Pro **Pablo Alvarado** for writing many informative articles for this past year's Drop Shots. We all appreciate their time and effort. Other thanks go to **Nancy Batchelor** & **Kate Belding** for proof-reading the

newsletters every quarter prior to sending them out. Nancy has volunteered her time helping to produce the Drop Shot with me over the past eighteen years.

Steve Brooks was honored during our holiday party in December for all that he has contributed to the club. He joined in 1975, making him the longest tenured Senior member. Steve served as President twice (1988 & 1994) and has been a part of almost activity associated with the club. Please join me in saluting Steve for all his dedication to the club.

Congratulations to Mark Strem for coming “full circle” concerning his tennis rankings. In 1971, Mark was ranked #1 for Boys 10 Singles in Northern California. As he entered Aragon High School in 1976, Mark played #1 singles all four years, went undefeated in league play and led Aragon to four consecutive league championships. Mark was also named high school All American three times and was awarded First Team All-League honors all four years. After graduating, he went on to play tennis for the University of Michigan, where he led the team to win two Big Ten championships. Pretty impressive you say...but he has never rested on his laurels. Currently Mark is ranked #1 in the Nation for Men’s 60 doubles along with his partner David Meacham of Foster City. Congratulations on representing PTC in its finest fashion.

Club Anniversaries for October - December (5+ years)

Congratulations to the following members:

Ken & Val March - 25 years
Steve & Donna Balchios - 20 years
Marissa Hauselt - 20 years
John & Paula Flygare - 20 years
Teri Gregory - 20 years
Brian & Jennifer Desler - 20 years
Tim & Chris McMurdo - 15 years
Steve & Robin Hurwitz - 15 years
Joel & Melissa Selcher - 10 years
Gary & Beth Francesconi - 5 years

Finance News: Steve Livingston

You will notice that your quarterly statement is larger than the last statement. This is because our new dues went into effect for the first quarter 2024 and we invoice the dues in advance. Comparatively, we went from \$495/quarter to \$620/quarter. Categorically, operations went from \$335 to \$435, Loan Reserve remained the same at \$70 (we pay it off in 10 years), Capital Reserve went from \$90 to \$115. In the meeting, I went through a deep dive into what is contributing to our costs. The bottom line is our dues have only increased at an effective annual rate of 2.5% since 2006, while our costs have greatly exceeded that. Unfortunately, we have also been hit by a large volume of repairs and water leaks.

I did benchmark PTC versus other private member tennis clubs that are similar, in the Peninsula, Marin County, San Francisco, and Berkeley. PTC is still the lowest in dues, and significantly below the average (2023 of \$348/month, or \$1,044/quarter). In addition, the PTC equity return is the only club that returns 50% of the equity, with the other clubs averaging 10%. Most clubs have abandoned equity return to help offset the capital requirements. The good news is that many years ago, PTC leadership saw the need to begin a savings plan for Capital and it has been managed.

That said, we are feeling the stress of many items, such as cracking on courts 1-3, pool issues, spa issues including multiple leaks, pool room issues, rotting beams in the main room, etc. Courts 1-3 have only been resurfaced over the many past years, with various approaches in hopes of buying more years than we got

(with the budget being the challenge). Unfortunately, nothing has changed. To rip up the courts and replace it would be very expensive. There are some newer techniques that might buy us a better return on the money. We don't know enough yet, and this is a priority to better understand in the next couple of months what the options are.

Another eye-opener when benchmarking other clubs is the staff that they have, which explains a large part of the due's differential. As Treasurer, I have benefited from getting a front row seat in the life of our Club Manager and the staff. Most clubs in addition to management have a bookkeeper, and a larger staff to help with problems. Our manager must wear many hats, including the bookkeeping, paying bills, getting the money into our accounts which is not automatic, chasing the volume of increasing broken items, making shopping runs to Costco. I have gained a lot more respect for this role. Wearing my financial hat, I would like to encourage all remaining members (about 50%) who have not enrolled in ACH, which your bill is paid by your bank, versus writing a check. It allows us to more timely collect the money and spend less time on collections. Also, please remember to sign in your guests. It is a very small fee, but in 2023, we collected significantly less in guest fees than in 2022.

Lastly, I am also the beneficiary of a strong Financial Advisory Committee and want to thank them, especially **Bryan Welsh** who has dedicated much time to our financial forecasting, and **Jen Ellison**, who has set up accounts for PTC to obtain higher interest rates. I am looking for someone who has an HR background who can help PTC with our efforts to update our policies and understand best practices. Please contact me if you are interested in helping. It would be greatly appreciated.



Steve Livingston detailing the Treasurer's Report at the November Membership Meeting



Full house attending the November Membership Meeting

Tennis News: *Steven Oliver*

The Men's Singles tournament in October was a huge success. We had great member participation, but it came down to the wire for both brackets. In the Main OPEN Bracket, ***James Kim*** edged out ***Jack Herndon*** and in the Main 3.5 Bracket, ***Steven Oliver*** edged out ***Paul Felton***. The Consolation Brackets had ***Tom Beerle*** (OPEN) and ***Duncan Grenier*** (3.5) as winners.

The Pizza & Pros event on November 19th went off spectacularly. Kids and adults alike enjoyed tennis in its many creative forms. Pablo and his Allstar crew of coaches hosted this event that included rackets to demo, serve speed zone, three-person opponent game, drills, and prizes. Pizza and drinks rounded the event off leaving all participants happy.

Special THANKS to all that helped with 2023 PTC Tennis Events. I'm sure that I may be missing someone, but a BIG THANKS to: ***Nancy Batchelor, Carey Welsh*** (Social Director - social made the tennis events spectacular), ***Sheila Druskin, Jeff Tateosian, Val*** and ***Ken March, Bryan Welsh, Mark Piercy, Dave Bressie, Paul Miller***, and countless others.



**Men's Singles Tournament – Open Division
Winner – James Kim (left), Runner Up – Jack Herndon (right)**



**Men's Singles Tournament – 3.5 Division
Winner – Steven Oliver (left), Runner Up – Paul Felton (right)**



Men's Singles Tournament – Open Division-Back Draw Winner – Tom Beerle



Men's Singles Tournament – 3.5 Division Back Draw Winner - Duncan Grenier (right), Runner Up – Adam Chall (left)

Membership News: Kris Willig

I'd like to offer my most heartfelt thanks to the 2023 Membership Committee – **Jeff Tateosian, Meaghan Schaefer, Kerry Mahrer, and Andrea Moore** – for their support, insights, and advice over this past year.

PTC bade a fond farewell to the following members in 2023 – **Paul Richards, Marian Fitzgerald, Patti Poindexter, Lori Langmack, Tom Middlemass, David Marcus, Brian Beswick, Chris Krook, Steve Eskanazi, Gene Trainor, and Aaron Saludo.**

Ernie Morrison, Roger Trinkner, and Kristin Nisewaner transitioned to Associate status, and **Steve Brooks** became an Honorary Member for his many years of service and dedication to PTC.

We welcomed 13 new members to our club in 2023 – **David Hopkins, Tom Beerle, Lorin Cortina, Ravi Viswanathan, Andy Leventhal, Jeffrey Thomas, Binny Wong, Martin Colaco, Anya Ho-Sole, Mason Ford, Beth Grossman, Ido Sakal, and Tom Philip.** Our waitlist remains strong at 19 applicants.

New Member Profiles

Binny Wong and her husband **Wai Wong** live in Hillsborough with their children **Brendan (15)** and **Caitlin (13)**. Binny is a solid 3.5 player who works hard at her game; Wai plays at the 3.5 level as well. Her sponsors describe Binny as kind and thoughtful, and a big tennis enthusiast who enjoys all aspects of the sport. **Sponsors S. Druskin and N. Ling**

Martin Colaco grew up playing tennis and now plays at the 4.0 level; his wife **Yi-Win** is new to the sport. Their children **Charles (10)** and **Felix (9)** have begun taking lessons. Martin has jumped right in and is currently playing on PTC's Men's 40+ 4.0 team. The Colacos are residents of Burlingame. **Sponsors J. Herndon and G. Voorhis**

Anya Ho-Sole played in junior USTA tournaments and played doubles in high school; her husband **Jason Sole** is a recreational player. Their children **Amaya (13)** and **Brayden (9)** love tennis, and the family enjoys playing together. Anya is playing on PTC's Women's 40+ 3.5 team and will even take that hard to fill singles position! Anya and family live close to PTC in Burlingame. **Sponsors A. & D. Chall/J. Palaniappan**

San Mateo residents Mason Ford and his wife **Julie** are avid and enthusiastic tennis players, Mason at the 3.5 level and Julie at the 4.0 level. Their children **Mackenzie (21)** and **Emmy (19)** play recreationally. The Fords played on PTC's mixed 40+ 8.0 team in 2023, and for PTC's Men's 40+ 3.5 and Women's 40+ 4.0 USTA teams. Both sponsors have known the Fords for many years and speak highly of their character and enthusiasm for tennis. **Sponsors J. Herndon/M. Schaefer**

Beth Grossman is a 4.5 player. She and her husband **Brian** have three children – **Brady (15), Zoe (14), and Sylvie (11)**; the family resides in Hillsborough. Beth played on one of PTC's W4.5 teams in 2023. Her sponsors state that in addition to being a very strong player, Beth is a lovely person with many friends at PTC. **Sponsors: S. Seeberan/K. Cresci**

Ido Sakal plays at the 4.5/5.0 player. He, his wife **Dana**, and their two sons (**Ben, 14** and **Michael, 10**) reside in Hillsborough. Dana is a 3.5 player, and the two boys enjoy tennis among other sports. Ido is a very strong and experienced player - he was a top-rated junior in Israel. **Sponsors: R. Clark/J. Herndon**

Thomas Philip, his wife **Betsy**, and three sons **Ethan (14), Shane (12), and Austin (7)** reside in Burlingame. Tom is a 3.0/3.5 player; Betsy, who played in high school, plays at the 2.5/3.0 level, and the boys are starting in the sport. Their sponsors feel that the Philips family will be a wonderful addition to PTC. **Sponsors: J. Palaniappan/I. Rosenstein**



New Members: Binny & Mai Wong and family



Martin & Yi-Wyn Colaco and family

House & Grounds News: *Kristen Pierce*

The house and grounds committee has been focusing on identifying and correcting the water leak, and the hot tub is the major culprit. With the help of a leak detection company, the leaks have been identified, and a contractor has been selected to repair and re-grout the hot tub. Work should be completed by the end of January, if the weather cooperates.

The focus over the next year will be on developing the strategy for dealing with the cracks in the front tennis courts. Initial discussions with one contractor suggest that using slip sheet technology may be the best approach. This approach avoids the expense of completely replacing the courts. Slip Sheet is a special material that can withstand the expansion and contraction of the soil, something which is a particular issue in our area, and the estimated life of the courts is 20 years. A small tennis court committee is being formed, and we will be talking to additional contractors and to other clubs in the area to make sure we develop the best approach for PTC.

This year, there are additional maintenance and repairs that need to be addressed, including repairs to the pool. We are forming a house and grounds committee (separate from the tennis court committee), and we are looking for volunteers to join. Please let Kristen know if you are interested in joining.

Social News: *Carey Welsh*

Holiday & PTC's 90th Birthday Party - What a way to end the PTC social year with this magical holiday party where we also celebrated the club's 90th year of incorporation. The night was a huge success with a record crowd, beautiful and delicious food (from a 9' charcuterie table), a cake that was almost too nice to cut, and background music by a live trio. Special thanks go to *Valerie March, Debbie Bakhtiari, Kerry Mahrer, Elise Brand, Jackie Sage, Whitney Murphy, Alyssa McCoy, Devi Anand*, and *Craig Hedges*, all who helped decorate the club house for the night. The room never looked so good! I loved that it was used multiple times after for team parties, poker, bridge, and mahjong parties, and I even heard about a birthday event. A huge thank you to *Olive Ebert* and *Maris Prudy* who helped with the food (the shrimp table was all Maris) and made sure that everything was stocked and looked great all evening long. What a great team I had for the night!

On a final note, I want to say that it was my pleasure serving as Social Chair this past year. I was very reluctant to take the position, but I was so happy that I did. I encourage all members to consider a Board, committee, or team captaining position. PTC is a special community, and you get more out of it the more you give, guaranteed. Happy New Year!



Women's 3.5 & 4.0 Team's Annual Holiday Ornament Exchange Party



Congratulations to Alyssa McCoy for becoming the Mahjong Queen of 2023.

Holiday Party Photos







Holiday Event Organizers - Val March (left), Carey Welsh & Kerry Mahrer



Holiday Party Bartenders – Jeff, Peter, Jeff, Pat & Steve



Kristin Nisewaner, Sonja & Steve Brooks



All smiles by some of our beautiful members

Tennis Pro: *Pablo Alvarado*

Happy 2024! The PTC Coaching Staff wishes you a great year ahead and we are here to help you ACE all your New Year's TENNIS GOALS!

We've wrapped up 2023 with a very fun Pizza & Pros event. On a nice Sunday morning we had over 80 players (Adults & Juniors) on the court doing drills and games. There was a Serve Speed booth and hitting-to target stations. After 2 hours on court, we finished the event with pizza and a raffle with cool prizes. I want to thank the **Tennis Committee** for supporting the event and to our amazing staff: **Coach Stephanie Luk, Coach Dan Miller & Coach Clayton Farac** and to our friend **Palmer Mandelson** who helped me to run the event smoothly. Also, thanks to **Kim Cresci** who oversaw the checking in of players and to the **Tennis Station** for providing a ton of demo racquets and prizes.

Finally, I wanted to thank all the PTC players and families who attended the event. We are looking forward to seeing you all again on the court with our next Pizza and Pros event scheduled for March - stay tuned!

Talking about your 2024 Tennis Goals, we offer different options for you and your family to get on court: Private Lessons, Group Classes, and Drop-In clinics. Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need help on how to get started (pablo@evolutionburlingame.com).

Our year-round Junior Program is getting solid. Kids are learning good technical fundamentals while they also learn how to compete. Lessons, practices, and tournaments are all part of the Evolution PTC Tennis program. The "Evolution World Tour" is a series of exciting tournaments and events that we do during the year for all the Juniors who are part of the tennis program. In December we played the "Beijing" Singles Tournament, and we are getting ready for the "Melbourne" Doubles Tournament coming up in February.

If you have a junior who wants to join the program, this is a great time. Contact me and I will set up an assessment to make sure we find the best fit to start.

For those who want to start getting the summer organized, SUMMER CAMPS REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN. Take advantage of the Early Bird Discount of \$50 off in all camps registering by February 29th. Our camps deliver all the energy, instruction, camaraderie and fun that our campers have come to love. We offer children 5-17yrs the finest of sports programming with *experienced and qualified coaches and counselors*.

- **Court Kidz: Best start for a young player** - 5-10yrs Beginner - Red & Orange Ball - Half and Full Day available.
- **Court Warrior: Perfect fit for players 9-13yrs of intermediate level** - Orange & Green Ball - Half and Full Day available.
- **Junior Development: For Players 12yrs and older** - Beginner / Intermediate / Advanced - Half Day only.
- **Summer Passes: Best Deal of Summer - Get up to 40% off** when registering for five weeks of camps.

If you want to learn more about the Evolution Summer Tennis Camps, please check our website www.evolutionburlingame.com and don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.



Evolution Beijing 2023
Orange & Red Club



Evolution Beijing 2023
Green Ball Club



Evolution Beijing 2023
Yellow Ball Club



Bryce Taylor
Runner up - Yellow Ball

