

Cypress Tennis and Social Club



March 2018

New Club Board Members Named

Good things keep happening. With an excellent turnout—a lively session fueled by pizza and Pepsi—at the meeting on Saturday, Feb. 24, nominations and election of the new Club board took place. Here are the members stepping up to the never-easy job of moving the Club in new directions:

President: Don Likens
Vice President: David Bornstein
Secretary: Lee Digregorio
Treasurer: Tina Godwin

First, the fund raiser: Up-to-date information will be needed, and Bernadette will send e-mails with details.

The meeting was a time of looking back, to voice recognition and appreciation to the old board for the super job they did in boosting membership, bringing about popular activities, and—of course—staging the all-important tennis activities.

And, it was a time of looking ahead, to begin arranging for another satisfying, successful year of good friends and good tennis.

The basic topics considered:

- How many activities in a year?
- What are options for the social aspect of the Club?
- What kinds of tennis events will the members support: tournaments, fun days, doo dah, round robin?
- How can we get more people involved in helping the Club grow?

In this regard, Lee says, “I am optimistic. New members and new interests will inspire all to greater degrees.”

As a message from the board, new-president Don has this to say: “Your new board is working on plans for 2018, and are looking forward to an exciting year with more activities, events, and fun tennis. LET’S PLAY!”

A Job Without an Interview? Are You Kidding?

Just a guess: very few people have ever been hired for a really good job without the nerve-churning, composure-crushing task of coming up with all the right answers in a sit-down with a company rep. Well, new Club president DON LIKENS was surprised and delighted to have once been one of the rare job seekers to enjoy that experience.

HOW IT HAPPENED: The VP of the consulting firm knew him from a previous job (though DON did not remember the VP at all), and on the VP’s recommendation and a simple phone interview, he was hired. He certainly must have made a great impression the first time! This was a work-at-home job creating a software product. He retired from this job September, 2017, after working there for nine years. This happened in the Philadelphia area, where he grew up. After attending the University of Pittsburgh, he worked in I.T. most of his career.

He and his wife, BARB, moved here about three years ago, and he is more than happy to get out to the courts year around to play our favorite game. He also enjoys bridge, playing volley ball, golfing, and being active in his church. And his skills extend to other sports as well. At the Club’s bowling event a while back, he displayed a very smooth delivery motion that set the pins to doing what pins are meant to do: go a-flying.

And do we even need to ask which team he favored in the Super Bowl?



Would You Like To See The Yangtze— Or Know All About It? Just Ask Yunlin Huang

By Abel and Erwin

One of the great things about our Club has always been the diversity of its members. Over the years, people from many different backgrounds and cultures have joined the Club, all brought together by their love of tennis.

MR. YUNLIN HUANG typifies this rich tradition. Everyone who has been on the court with him knows of his outstanding tennis ability. But not everyone knows of his unique education and life experiences which make him an authority on the complex entity that is China—and its place in today's world.

Relying on his special knowledge, Mr. Huang recently was a lecturer on this subject, conducting a series of five classes at the Lifelong Learning Institute at Long Beach State University.

His Topics:

- “China, a Central Kingdom in Asia”
- “Its Land Forms, Rivers, and Climate
- “Population, Resources, and Environment
- “Economic Development”
- “Maritime Disputes with Other nations in the Area”

As a measure of the interest in the subject and the quality of the presentations, each of the five sessions had a large group of people in attendance, including some Club members. Their enthusiasm could be measured by the number and thoughtfulness of their questions. At times, Mr. Huang had to depart from his prepared notes to answer the many questions they asked.

The Bold Move

He was born in Shanghai and attended Peking University, where he majored in geology and geography. Thereafter, he worked at the Chinese Academy of Sciences for a lengthy stint of twenty-three years. Then he made a bold move—to Hawaii, USA.



There he earned a PhD in geography from the University of Hawaii, and was employed by the Department of Labor, Industrial Relations Section. As a result of these varied experiences, he has particularly valuable insights into the cultures of both China and the U.S.

In 2011, Huang and his wife, Li, (also a terrific tennis player, and one who never saw an overhead opportunity she didn't like) came to California. They reside in Cypress, with their son, daughter-in-law, and grandchild, Carol, an especially precocious young lady of eight years, who has frequently come to the courts on Tuesdays and Thursdays with her grandmother and grandfather, and who thereby knows most of the players and their interesting foibles.

We commend Huang and thank him for volunteering his time and sharing his learning and observations. In the words of that well-known phrase, he is truly a gentleman and a scholar.

However, Club members should be aware: when you play against him, you better watch out for those long, looping, well-placed lobs of his. They'll give you fits.



CYPRESS TENNIS CLUB: To edify new members and to refresh the memory of long-time members, we herewith present our usual tribute to the Academy Awards.

Who Needs The Oscars When We Have The Whackers?

Oscar time is with us—that much-publicized ceremony when little statuettes are awarded to give recognition to actors and actresses for notable performances in movies.

More importantly, also drawing near is the glittery, glamorous ceremony when recognition is given for memorable performances on the tennis courts—the time for awarding the whackers, the coveted statuettes of a player who slumps in dejection after missing another shot.

A conscientious committee is now at work on the daunting task of selecting the nominees in the following familiar categories:

BEST COMIC PERFORMANCE IN SEARCHING THROUGH A BAG: A person rummaging around in his bag simulates sincerity while stalling until somebody else opens a new can of balls. The person may accompany the fumbling with remarks, such as, “I’ve got some here that aren’t too bad, if I can just find them.”

BLANK, VACANT LOOK OF DISBELIEF: It comes on the face of someone who just lost to a weaker opponent and can’t accept the reality of it.

“YOU CAN’T BE SERIOUS!” The best imitation of a McEnroe rant, including gestures.

WHOSE TURN IS IT TO SERVE, AND FROM WHAT SIDE? EPISODE OF CONFUSION: Old guys on Tuesday and Thursday replicating a “Who’s on-First?” routine as they try to deal with the intricacies of the tie-break procedure.

THE GLARE: Occurs when a person has delivered an absolutely terrific serve—which the receiver calls out. The server says nothing but stands for a moment and gives a GLARE, which conveys a message: “Where do you keep your seeing-eye dog and your white cane? You robbed me, and if I wasn’t such a good sport I would have some very colorful things to say about it.”

THE PREMATURE EXCLAMATION: The performer drives a ball close to the opponents’ base line, then shouts, “Yes!” and gives a very dramatic fist pump—before the opponents have made a call.

SMOTHERED MIRTH: An opponent has looked ridiculous in flailing away at a chop shot which had a ton of spin and jumped two feet when it landed. The chopper has a strained expression on his face while struggling to control the natural impulse to giggle.

THE STARE: Person stands as though thinking that if he stares long enough at the place where the opponent’s ball hit, the spot will move and be outside the line instead of right on the line.

THE “OH, NO!” EXPRESSION: Occurs when both partners are at the net as an opponent pops up a perfect topspin lob. With dismay, they helplessly watch it go over their heads and drop in.

Meet and Greet for the Raffle

The date of this big event is drawing near, so mark it on your calendar in big, bold print. **SATURDAY, APRIL 7,** is the important day to gather, to purchase your tickets, and then to listen hopefully as the winners for prizes are announced.

THE PLACE: Tanglewood Club House
9672 Paseo de Oro, Cypress (just off Bloomfield)

THE TIME: 1 p.m.. to mingle with family and friends, enjoy refreshments—and buy your lucky tickets.

THE BIG HAPPENING, THE RAFFLE: 2:30 p.m.



THE FIVE STAGES OF TENNIS GRIEF



DENIAL



NO WAY! THAT DIDN'T HAPPEN. I COULDN'T LOSE. IMPOSSIBLE. I'M BETTER. SO MUCH BETTER.

ANGER



HE CHEATED. GAVE ME BAD LINE CALLS. FOOT FAULTED EVERY SERVE. THEN THE WIND CAME UP. AND THIS CRUMMY RACKET LET ME DOWN.



BUT WHY AM I SURPRISED? I NEVER WAS VERY GOOD. MY FOREHAND IS WEAK. AND MY BACKHAND IS A JOKE. I'M JUST LAME.

BARGAINING



OK. A DEAL: SCOUT'S HONOR. IF I CAN JUST BE MORE CONSISTENT AND HIT SOME GOOD VOLLEYS NOW AND THEN, I WON'T EXULT WHEN I WIN AND WON'T LOB OLD GUYS WITH BAD KNEES AND WILL ALWAYS ... AND

ACCEPTANCE



OH WELL. THAT'S LIFE. EVERYONE HAS OFF DAYS - EVEN FED. NOTHING TO GET IN A SWEAT ABOUT. JUST KEEP PLAYING AND ENJOY IT ALL.