

# INSIDE THE LINES

The Quarterly MTC Newsletter

## MTC President's Message

MTC President: Rob Ahearn

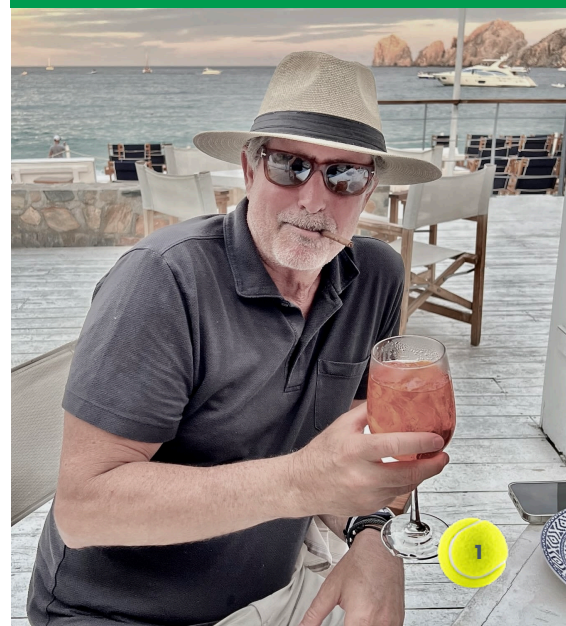
As David Bowie once sang “Cha-cha-cha-changes”... while Mother Nature is in the midst of our season of renewal so are we as a tennis club. We have a brand-new Board of Directors, Executive Director team, President, and a new food and beverage service! I'm pleased to report that for the most part things are running well at the club – we are off to a good start! Yet with every change there are always growing pains and I am aware that we are not immune to this. I want to assure you that the BOD and I are constantly monitoring how things are running here at MTC and are working closely with our amazing staff and partners to deliver the absolute best member experience possible.

We are making some very big improvements in one key area, club communications, thanks to the hard work of Linda Gordon and the new Marketing Committee members. I'm sure you've all noticed the new monitor screens around the club that are full of great information on upcoming MTC events, plus you may have noticed a lot more information is being sent straight to your email box. Huge thanks to the team that is making this happen! Work has begun on some of the H&G projects as you will notice the changes being made to the pool area in April and the new front secure gate will be started mid-summer.

### MTC CORE VALUES

**Joy of Tennis**  
**Friendships**  
**Community**  
**Competition**

MTC President: Rob Ahearn





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**We are making some very big improvements  
in one key area, club communications.**

**– Robert Ahearn**  
MTC PRESIDENT



I also want to remind all of us that there's lots of other reasons to come to MTC beyond just coming to play tennis! I'm very excited about the activities and events that will be happening here in the coming weeks, in particular:

PickleBall Tournament April 22nd

Cinco de Mayo Celebration May 5th

MCAL Boys singles finals April 24-26

MTC Ladder Finals May 6-7

Memorial Day Weekend Tournament May 26-29.

Plus, look for Friday Night Live Music events and other special happy hour specials from Bogies! And we have also started new 5.0+ Level Friday Night Exhibitions as well! So come on down for the entertainment while enjoying your favorite beverages or a breakfast/lunch/dinner on our beautiful patios!

Please remember that I am always available to listen to any member concerns – just send me an email at [MTCboard@marintennisclub.com](mailto:MTCboard@marintennisclub.com) or visit me in my next President's Courtside Chat on Saturday April 29th 1:00 – 3:00pm.





Is it Spring yet? Hopefully the rains are behind us, and warmer, sunny days lie ahead as there is a full slate of activities on the calendar in the next few months. I am excited to feel that buzz in the air as the energy returns to MTC! This is a magical place or as I coin it "The Disneyland of Tennis". There is a little something to satisfy the needs of all members. From the hard-core competitive player to the laid back 'just give me a racquet, balls, and my foursome on a Saturday' player. Our pickleball aficionados look forward to their Sunday afternoons each week while there are those who are totally content with basking on the front patio with a Bogies' sandwich and an ice-cold draft beer. We don't have to go far to have our little slice of paradise! I am blessed to be in a job where everyday is a different adventure and my mission is to serve this MTC family! Thank you for giving me this opportunity!

So much to look forward to this Spring! First up is the Olympics of Tennis on Saturday April 15 where teams will compete in a similar way to Calcutta but with one caveat: winners will be determined by a skills competition judged by our tennis staff. Do you have the following in your tennis arsenal: drop shot, slice serve, down the line and cross court returns, over heads, and volleys?

MTC has been chosen to host the boys MCAL Individual Championships April 24 – 26. This is a great opportunity to see some of our future tennis stars at the high school level. Play will be on the back courts starting at noon each day with the finals starting at 3pm on the 26th. Saturday April 22, MTC will host the first Pickleball Tournament for members on Court 1. No matter what your level is, all are welcome to participate. We currently have over 100 members participating in our weekly drop-in pickleball program and growing!

May kicks off with our Cinco de Mayo celebration on Cinco de Mayo! Plenty of tennis, food, and margaritas to go around! May wraps up with the annual Memorial Weekend Tournament headed up by our Tennis Director Anton Stryhas and Michael Lustenberger. Entries are open and the event looks to be bigger and better than ever. Entries have been opened to outside players once again and an extended Open Division with significant prize money has been added! Throw in USTA leagues, Play Tennis Marin, and MTC ladder competition and there is no shortage for things to do this Spring!

I want to wrap up by welcoming Michael Freed and his crew from Bogies as they bring a whole new food and beverage experience to the MTC. I look forward to working side by side with him. Lastly, kudos to my amazing staff! This is one of the strongest teams I have had in the 6 years as your General Manager. Please take a moment and thank them for their service as we all have pledged to go out of our way to make your MTC experience the best it can be! See you on the courts!

—Chris



## MTC General Manager's Corner

**CHRIS HORNE**



# Introducing MTC Communications Team

Don McGinnis: Internal Manager  
Greg Brady: External Manager  
Brooke Juhl and Em Lieginger: Junior Tennis  
Fred Saland: Kiosks  
Michael Lustenberger: Instagram and Memorial Weekend Tournament Chair  
Christopher Trepte: Videography  
Missy Kiesewetter : Photography  
Marty Marks and Terrye Light: Librarians  
Patti Lee: Web/PR  
Aric Clark: IT  
Sarah Blevins and Rob Ahearn  
George Jackson: Memorial Tourney Sponsors  
Katy O'Leary, Helen Luttemo: At Large  
Emily Berkinseer: BOD Liaison

Communications are in bloom! Our goal is to bring the Joy of Tennis in all of its ways to MTC, Friends and Community. The member Kiosks/Monitors are designed and managed by Fred Saland. The Newsletter will be published soon after copy editing and setup by Sarah Blevins and Rob Ahearn. Instagram by Michael Lustenberger pops up with fun member activity. Aric Clark is setting up online signups for Special events. The Memorial Weekend Tournament, headed by Michael Lustenberger is recruiting players and sponsors. Our new librarians Marty Marks and Terrye Light are lending member book donations under the stairs.

Other communication projects are in the works with more to come. Members wishing to help, let us know! All are welcome.

Linda Gordon  
MTC Marketing Communications Chair



**Please send all your MTC photos to our MTC Drop Box so that Missy can share them with our membership and social media.**





## MTC Finance Committee Update

### STUART KEIRLE



#### MTC Finance Committee Team

Chair: Stuart Keirle  
Members: Frank Battatt, Terry Cush, Ron Stelowitz, Norma Brewer  
Peggy Hodel, David Wilson, Vlad Matyurin

We had a quiet first quarter which was highlighted by our presentation at the February club Annual General Meeting. It was good to report that we are now generating over \$1 million of revenue each year and that our financial position remains secure and well managed.

A very wet winter has affected our recruitment efforts – it's hard to ask folks for initiation fees to play tennis when thanks to Mother Nature the courts are unplayable; however when Spring does actually spring out we anticipate a good number of new members joining the club whose initiation and Club Improvement Fees will add to the club reserves and help us meet planned House & Grounds expenditures. We are also looking forward to continued revenue growth from our Tennis Department, the exciting Rafael Nadal clinics, and the summer camp projects.

It can be said that talking about the club's financing is boring, but that's the way the FC wants it to be. A strong financial position with all the checks and balances in place is what we have and this is the way forward.

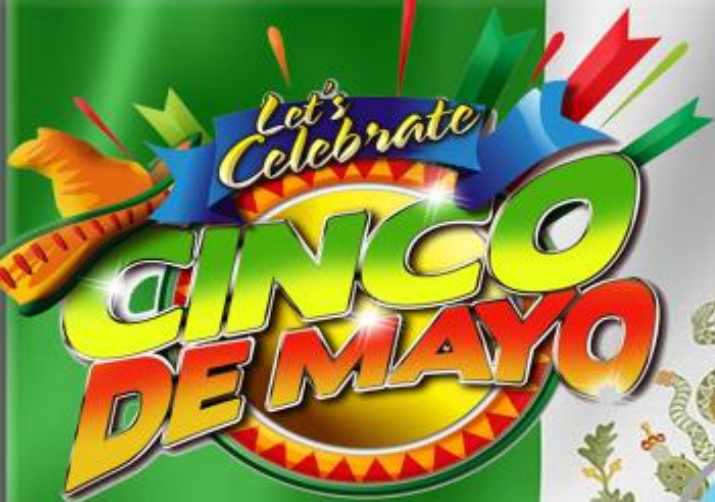
As those of you who attended the AGM will know, my friend and longtime club and committee member Frank Battatt was awarded the Marty Marks Volunteer of the Year award. Hopefully by now we are all aware of Frank's contribution to MTC over the decades since he was a founding member. However, as we all have a life outside of MTC we thought it would be good to have an "up close and personal" report from Frank about his career. We asked him for his comments and we are sharing them here:

"I have spent my life in business with my two brothers. We began by taking over our father's export business, exporting foods to many countries. We started a farming subsidiary in 1968 growing turkeys, and eventually switched from turkeys to chickens growing for Foster Farms. We farmed almonds, and harvested and packed and sold them to institutional users in the U.S. and overseas. We built a winery in Yountville in 1980 and exited the business in 1995. We exited the farming business in 2014. We started an import division in 1995 and supplied private label canned and packaged fruits and vegetables to large retailers. We exited that business in 2014. Currently our firm still exports foods to overseas markets.

I have a degree in physics from UC Berkeley and since 1968 have been writing the software on which our business runs. I have a life long experience in managing business operations and accounting and have written accounting software for all our operations. In 1972 I joined the initial group of founders of Marin Tennis Club and enjoyed the new facilities when we started in September 1973. From 1982 through 1995 I was mostly traveling for our winery business but once home again, I became active again at MTC. I was on the Finance Committee from 1995 to 2000, going onto the Board in 1998. I was President in 2001. Along with Liz Tabussi we started the social tennis committee I think in 2005 or 2006 and I left that in 2015 to go back on the Finance Committee."

I personally look forward to hearing more details on Frank's international experiences. Needless to say the FC looks forward to Frank's tireless contribution to ensure the club's continued prosperity.

-Stuart



# FRIDAY

## MAY 5<sup>TH</sup>



*PLEASE REGISTER AT DESK OR ON-LINE*

*LIMITED TO 1<sup>ST</sup> 24  
\$15 WHEN YOU SIGN UP*

It's time for the

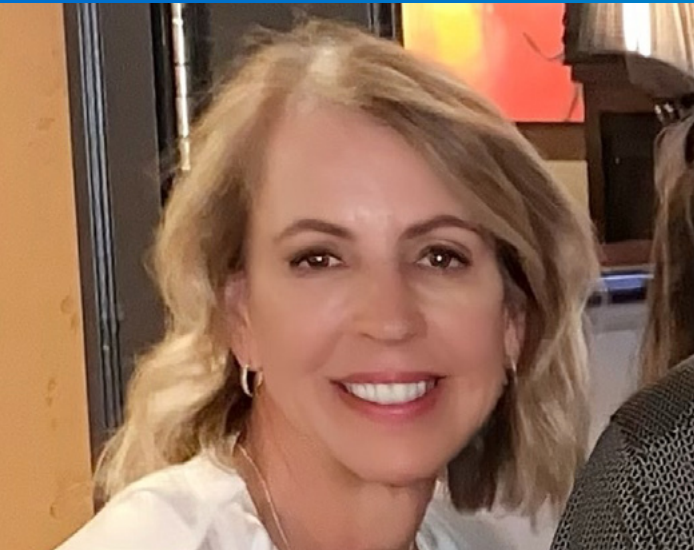
# Spring Championships / Ladder Playoffs



*Saturday & Sunday  
May 6-7th*







# MTC Tennis Committee Update

**Chair:** Jamie Papadimos, 5.0

**Members:** Jerod Mah, Kristin Morrell, 4.5 Chris Trepte, Kristin Morrell, 4.0 Mike Lustenberger, Dave Hirschkop, Kris Hinckley, Francie Burkhard, 3.5: Kari Chao, Molie Malone, Elliott Magnuson, Andrew Fremier, 3.0 Whitney Johnson and non-usta John Michelson.

Dear MTC Members – We hope all of you are getting out and enjoying the Spring weather and playing tennis. Here's what your Tennis Committee is currently working on.

First, we met and approved captains for the 40+ mixed teams. Internal registration opened April 20, Team registration will open April 24–May 22 and play begins on June 19 and runs through August 27.

Second, we are focusing on the court reservation system. We have heard from a number of you that you cannot book a court and arrive to find unused courts. We will be sending out a survey to find out more about the court reservation system in a matter of days if you have not already received it by the publication of this newsletter.

Finally, we are adding an FAQ section to our newsletter based on your inquiries. Our first FAQ's concern guests and non-member policies.

**Q: What is the MTC guest policy?**

A: A non-member may be a guest twice a month or 24 times a calendar year.

**Q: What is a team practice?**

A: A team practice may be held once a season. It must be scheduled through the office and include ALL team members.

–Jamie

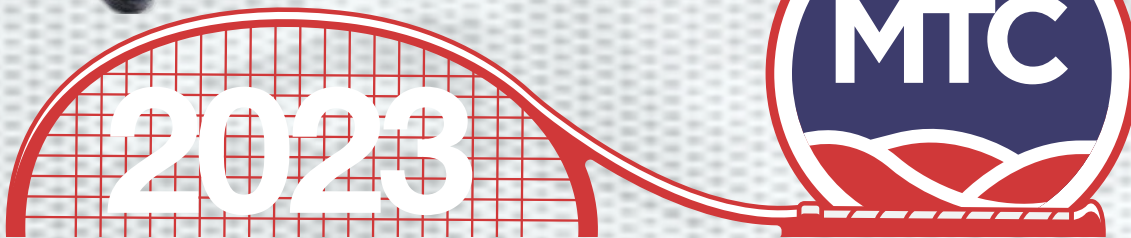


# REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Sign up using  
this QR code!



Open Division featuring ATP and WTA Pros!  
3.0 – 4.5+ Men, Women & Mixed Doubles!  
*New! 60+ Divisions for 7.0 & 8.0 Combos!*



Holmes Burrell Real Estate

## MTC MEMORIAL WEEKEND CHAMPIONSHIPS

May 26 – 29, 2023



# MTC Tennis Director Update

Dear MTC Members,

The weather hasn't been too nice to tennis enthusiasts in the area for the past 3 months, but it appears we are slowly making progress towards warmer conditions and more court time!

In the meantime, we released Spring weekly clinics schedule in March with some additions and improvements, and thus far the response has been very positive. Afternoon live ball sessions are particularly popular at all levels. Ladder season picked up the pace as the rain subsided with more tennis challenges happening on the courts every day and more members engaging in social and competitive play. We are looking forward to the MTC Spring Championships to take place in the beginning of May as a culmination of the ladder season!

Valentine's Day round robin was a successful social gathering with tons of fun tennis and exercise. Members got a chance to meet new people (as well as play with their loved ones) and compete against various levels in a super exciting format, not to mention an assortment of treats everybody got to share afterwards! Olympics of Tennis was a major success as well. On top of doubles play, this year, the event included skills testing, which was both fun & challenging and had players cheering for their teammates and the opposite team while getting their daily share of adrenaline. Everybody seemed to have a great time playing, socializing, & representing their countries' colors.

Junior tennis program continues to grow in both numbers and level. We had multiple players winning USTA junior tournaments in the past three months as well as representing MTC in Junior Team Tennis competition. Junior members participated in the Olympics of Tennis, and continue to test themselves and others in singles & mixed doubles divisions of MTC ladder. We are also still gathering applications for MTC Junior Summer Camp, feel free to share with friends and family! We will have a lot of tennis, games, and pool time this summer!

Next Level Program was recently launched to promote high-level play at MTC, support formation of highest level USTA teams, and introduce more exhibition matches to the club. We are looking forward to seeing what the program brings to the enhancement of the club's experience in the future!

MTC Memorial Weekend Championships promises to be a grand event with the additions of six new 60+ divisions as well as several Open divisions with many exhibition matches planned. We are anticipating high level college players and a few professionals joining us for it this May. The tournament will span over 4 days and will accommodate hundreds of players of various levels. We are very excited to host this celebration of tennis at our club!

Lastly, we are organizing MTC First Annual Pickleball Championship this weekend. Come out and try it out or just enjoy watching fellow members go at it! We will have court 1 set up for one day of social and competitive play in this fast-growing sport!

If you are looking for individual lessons or clinics with predetermined players, feel free to contact me at [tennisdirector@marintenniscub.com](mailto:tennisdirector@marintenniscub.com), and both coach Sam and myself will be happy to accommodate you.  
**See you on the courts!**

–Anton Strayhas  
TENNIS DIRECTOR





## MTC Social Committee Update

**Co-Chairs:** Karen Loebbaka & Liz Tabussi

**Members:** Liz Collins, Cliff Crowder, Germana Fabbri (new member!)  
Linda Gordon, Wendy Jennings, Whitney Johnson,  
Katie Magnuson, Carrie Peters, Fred Saland,  
Luba Shveyd, Reese Stubbs, Carol Treadway and  
Liz Zweben (new member!)

Your Social Committee has been busy planning lots of fun events. Here is a brief calendar of events:

### **Olympics of Tennis – Saturday, April 15 9:00 am to 1:00 pm**

Men/Women/Mixed doubles play as well as skills testing!

\$50 includes LOTS of tennis, breakfast, boxed lunch and medals to the winning team! Sign up by email to [office@marintennisclub.com](mailto:office@marintennisclub.com). Waitlist has started!

### **Pickleball Tournament – Saturday, April 22 9:00 am to noon**

Open to all ages & levels, sign up with a partner or we will find you one \$25 includes boxed lunch and mimosa

Sign up here or by email [office@marintennisclub.com](mailto:office@marintennisclub.com). First 32

### **Cinco de Mayo Round Robin – Friday, May 5 5:30–7:30 pm**

Round Robin tennis PLUS Live Ball run by Anton; so much fun!

\$10 for tennis only; Taco bar & margaritas provided by Bogie's for additional cost Music and festivities after tennis will make for a festive evening!

### **Calcutta XLVI – September 23 & 24**

Mark your calendars now and schedule travel around this incredible weekend event! If you have ideas on themes for this year's Calcutta, please email Karen Loebbaka

Liz Tabussi and Karen Loebbaka are the Chairs of the Social Committee and are looking for more members to help! Please consider joining us! We're a very fun (and social) group. Send an email if you would like more information.



**KAREN  
LOEBBAKA &  
LIZ TABUSSI**

**Co-Chairs**



Welcome  
new member  
Jay Trimble  
to the MTC  
family!!!



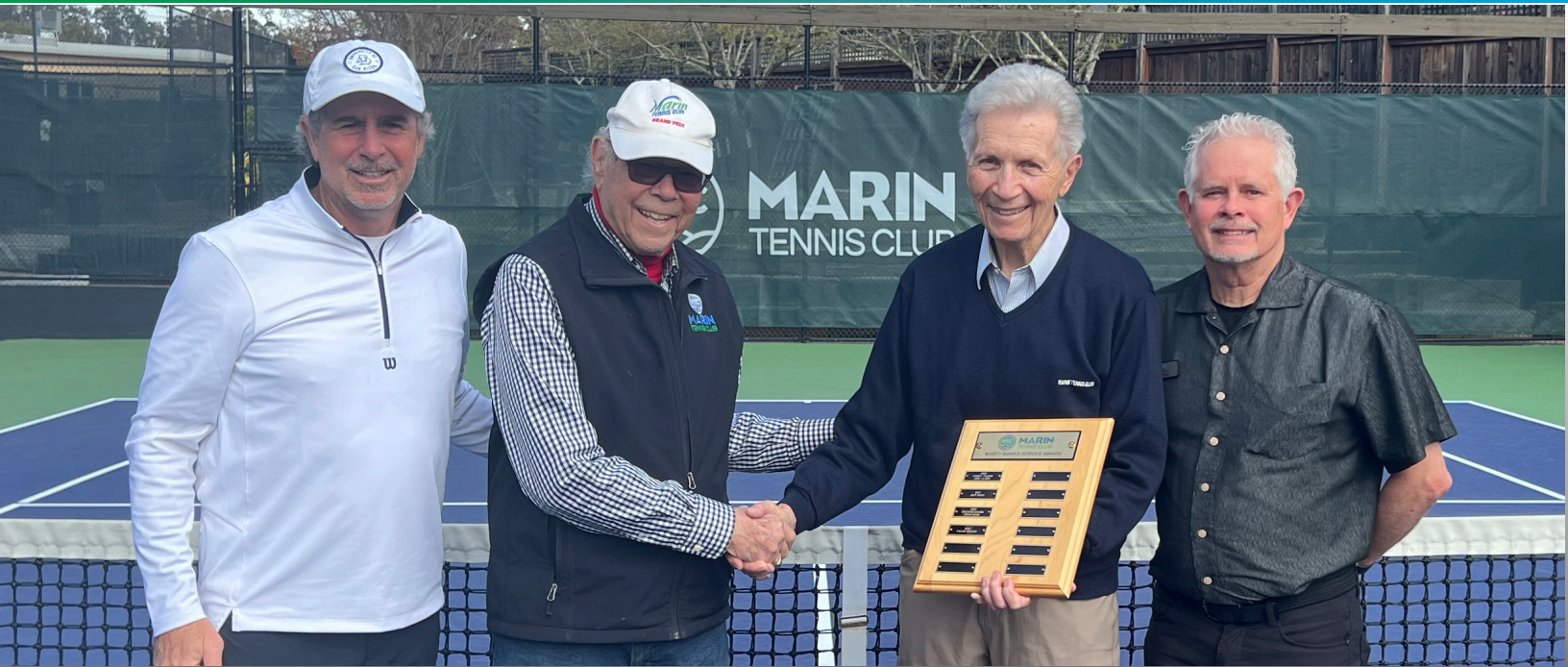
(A little secret:  
We don't actually  
use pickles)



Come Play with Us



Court 4  
Every Sunday, 2-4p  
We'll supply the racquets  
and instruction



**Pictured: Rob Ahearn (MTC President), Marty Marks, Frank Battat, Chris Horne (MTC General Manager)**

## Announcing the 2023 Marty Marks Award: Mr. Frank Battat

It was my distinct pleasure to present the Marty Marks Lifetime Service Award to Long Time (Founding) Member Frank Battat at the Annual General Meeting last month. As Frank was unable to attend in person I wanted to follow up and reiterate the sentiments I put forth during that presentation. Frank's service to the club has been steadfast and unwavering for decades. Frank has served on the Finance Committee for over 40 years. He served as Board member and was President of the Board in 2001-2002. His diligent review of the club's financials on a month in – month out basis has served as the bedrock on which the Finance Committee is built. Frank is part of the group fondly known as the "Insomniac's Club" who play tennis EVERY SINGLE DAY at 7am (and have for many years)! Frank has been a member so long that if his member number were an age it wouldn't be old enough to have a drivers license!

Seriously though, Frank Battat was the obvious choice to receive the 2023 Lifetime Service Award. Very few members have put forth the yeoman's labor, the time and effort, the passion and the care that Frank has in his near 50 year membership at the Marin Tennis Club. The Club would not be what it is without the dedicated efforts of Frank Battat. Although Frank and I did not always see eye to eye on every topic while I was Board President, Frank and I always respected each other and knew that we both had the best interests of the club at the forefront of our positions. Frank, I consider it an honor to have worked alongside you. Congratulations on an honor well deserved! The membership of the Marin Tennis Club is forever in your debt.

Humbly,  
**Jeff Birkenseer**  
MTC Board President '21-22





GERVAIS TOMPKIN  
Architect



REINHARD LUDKE  
Structural Engineer

## Happy Spring from the House & Grounds team!

At the MTC general meeting on March 2, we presented the approved projects for this year and the forecasted priorities for the next couple of years. In case you missed it...read on.

### FY 23 Project Priorities



Everything but the Back Courts Shade Solution are funded, and construction will begin after the Memorial Day Tournament. The idea of the shade for the back courts is approved...but we still need to design it and price it. The Solar Take-Over will allow us to move from paying service fees, to reaping the benefits of a reduced electrical bill.

### FY 23 Project Priorities: Access Entry Gate



This gate will help keep the club secure and allow members easy access by scanning a bar code on the MTC app. Guests can ring a bell and use an intercom to request entry. This gate will be along the main entry path, approximately at the baseline of court 9.





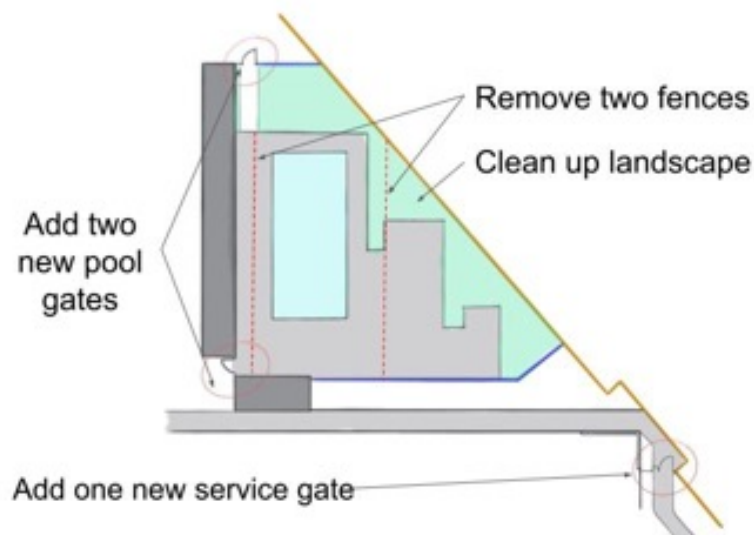
Inspired by our beloved patio, the current chain link and fading 1970's era sign will transform into a vine-covered shaded trellis with updated branding. Juniors will have a shady place to sit while waiting to be picked up.

### FY 23 Project Priorities: Entry Trellis



In about a month from now this project will have satisfied the Health Department's request to upgrade our pool entry gates to the current code. We've been clearing all the storage behind the eastern side pool fence. This project will demo that fence, significantly expanding the usable area around the pool. This change will allow us to experiment with other uses and imagine desirable future uses in this underutilized piece of our club property.

### FY 23 Project Priorities: Pool Gates & Fences



We've been working with the Board and Finance Committee to forecast possible future projects for budgeting purposes. We've not committed to any of these yet...but these are on our wish list! We welcome any ideas and input you have on how our facilities contribute to making MTC the BEST TENNIS CLUB IN MARIN!

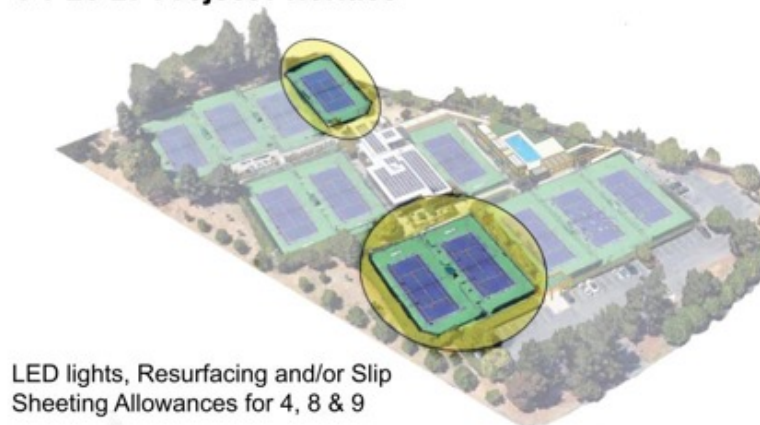
### FY 24 Project Priorities



### FY 25 Project Priorities



### FY 26-27 Project Priorities





# Team Belarus winner of the 2023 Olympics of Tennis!

Margo Holt, Jason Tuttle, Elliot Wallace, Helen Luttemo, Sandra Scott, Carrie Peters, Don McInnes, and Birt Phejtrakul





# Friday night “Dinners & Winners”

Exhibition night with Anton Stryhas, Ryan Cardiff, Jerod Mah and Jerry Jiang





# MTC at the BNP!!!!



2023

