

SAHA ROLLOUT

SACRAMENTO AREA HANDBALL ASSOCIATION

March 2007

- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE -

I'm baaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaack! I am pleased to report that my coup de taut for the SAHA Presidency went off without a hitch. There was not bloodshed although I was prepared for a bitter battle.

I'm still amazed that the former President Dave Thoreson never saw it coming. The man is a West Point graduate, a retired full bird colonel, and highly decorated Vietnam veteran. Yet he was outwitted by a Marine Corps corporal. Thoreson fell right into my trap.....I think.....after all I am the President now. Doesn't that mean I won? Hummmmm! Now I'm confused. Because I'm the one spending hours putting this newsletter together and he's the one out on the golf course.

We all need to thank Dave for his past 5 years of unselfish effort he put into SAHA. We're all better off for it. Dave has agreed to continue organizing the Sacramento Open for us. His leadership, along with the Elks hospitality are the primary reasons our tournament is a success.

So what can you expect from the new guy.

- SAHA is not one big happy family of handballers. Rather it is the collection of several different factions, mostly differentiated by club membership. Therefore I consider the most important goal as effective communication among the factions. This is primarily accomplished by the SAHA newsletter.

- My role is also to motivate and organize joint handball functions, such as the league and fun days. Our Sacramento Open tournament is the biggest function. I feel it is well entrenched and in good shape. Dave Thoreson and Ron Domingos have been the go-to guys for that result.

- Our league is a work in progress. The changes made for this current season seem to be well received. However adjustments are always an option to get more participation and enjoyment from the league.

- Youth program. Handball is still healthy but getting quite old. We need to promote young players however we can. Besides just communicating this we need 2 pieces to complete the puzzle. We need a place to provide supervised lessons, and we need personnel to do the instruction. I foresee SAHA providing the equipment (*with help from the USHA*) and instructors. I hope to get a commitment from one of our clubs to provide free court time on a scheduled basis. Any ideas along this line will be well received. Call Tom Bridges at 383-1262.

To give me an idea regarding the effectiveness of our communication, do me a favor. Our primary distribution method is the SAHA email list. We post the newsletter onto our website and then send a message to all on the email list asking you to visit the website and read/print the newsletter. Please let me know by email which category you fall in among the following:

1. You get the message to go to the website but don't bother to go there.
2. You get the message to go to the website and "barely" go there or just skim a few things.
3. You get the message to go to the website, go there and read or print the Rollout.

This will be very helpful in deciding whether to go back to mailing a hard copy newsletter. Email your category and any other comments you feel will help to tombridges@sbcglobal.net.

Hard & low, Tom Bridges

- DO THE DUES PLEASE -

We have had a substantial decrease in SAHA members keeping current with their dues. Why? Our transition from hard copy newsletter to a web site was probably one reason. But SAHA still sponsors fundays, and incurs other expenses such as the league playoffs, printing costs (for those without email), and fronts the cost of the popular Sacramento Open. The bottom line is we need to have folks who are not current to become so. As a reminder, anyone who plays in the league must be a current SAHA member. Anyone who participates in our fundays is also expected to be a member in good standing. We don't have a police force (well, we have Lozito, Hampton, Pelfanio and Hutchinson but.....well they're Lozito, Hampton, Pelfanio and Hutch) . So **PLEASE** be a responsible member and contribute your fair share towards continuing our organization.

Dues run from October to October (*to coincide with the league*).

League and/or Funday participants -----	\$20 per year
Funday folks -----	\$20 per year
Inactive members -----	\$5 per year

Inactive members are those who want to receive a copy of the Rollout Newsletter (*either hard copy or e-mail*), but don't participate in the league or fundays.

Please make dues payments to our treasurer:

Ron Domingos
9449 Laguna Creek Drive
Elk Grove, CA 95624

- ON THE MEND -

Rick Bradley ----- from the Elks has been quite ill was hospitalized, but is home now. Ron Domingos reports it apparently is a tumor in his colon. Prayers and thoughts please.

Tim Hindman ----- back surgery. 3 discs fused in December. Recovering well. Back to drinking regularly.

Henry Hondes --- 2nd knee replacement on January 2nd. Recovering well and hopes to be back on the court by July

Jim Oliver ----- knee replacement last July. Had a very tough recovery period with brutal rehab. He reports doing pretty well, but jury is still out regarding outcome.

Jack Austin ----- still having a very difficult time. A bicycling fall around a year ago resulted in back surgery. Didn't turn out well and had to have a second surgery. Still struggling and is using a walker and electric cart for heavier tasks. Wife Kitt is doing excellent at their Escaton adult community in Carmichael.

Jerry Pelfanio ---- is back on the court after a year + recovery from a severed Achilles tendon.

Tom Bridges ----- is recovering nicely from 2 surgeries a month apart. Back surgery (*stenosis*) and aortic abdominal aneurysm surgery. Both surgeries had to be postponed from the original dates because of a major infection from a Brown Recluse Spider bite (*man was I glad to get 2006 behind me*).

- WAYNE'S WAY -

Wayne's Way was recently posed the interesting question, "why do we have seeding for tournaments?" The query seemed simple enough, but then what appeared to be a rudimentary answer started twisting and turning into a great ball of confusion. This happens a lot here at Wayne's Way and of course we do it so well. Initially, you would most likely say that the two best players would then most certainly meet in the finals and be rewarded for hard work and previous championship efforts. Let's delve into ten new ways to decide who plays whom.

Why ten new ways you ask? We didn't believe we could come up with a dozen without getting too stupid or silly, but if it goes well, Wayne's Way may have couple more as a bonus for you dozen-people.

1. First application received by the tournament director is the numero uno seedo, (*Wayne's Way staff is multilingual*). Wayne's Way can envision money flying thru the mail at light speed to the director of event operations. They may send dollars a year in advance to be able to brag to their buddies that they were the number one seed in the big tournament. If you had been the final seed in the draw this would provide no advantage for match longevity. You would just probably lose to any other entrant, but not get blown out as bad as if you had played the top seed.
2. This is the 1 vs. 2, 3 vs 4, 5 vs 6 etc. scenario. Big advantages can be spied here. Everyone is usually at the tournament the first day, and would therefore get to see all the best matchups. 1 playing 2 would have an overflow capacity crowd and no one would be hungover yet. Let's say number 2 beats 1. Number 1 would then get to go about his weekend and possibly save his marriage (*again*) by coming home early from the event.
3. How about the lottery seeding system? Tournament director would simply draw your check number out of the hat and seed accordingly to the first drawn. Pluses are again painfully evident when dealing with average handball entrant, (*especially the perennially late check sending primadonnas*), no checkie no playie. Number one seed hotshots will probably just xerox a copy of a check and send to numerous tournaments to try and keep options open 'til the last minute.
4. Worst player in the tournament will arrange the draw. He can then stick it to everyone that has pitted him against the number one seed every time. Let revenge reign! Hey wait, we already have this system in place now at many tournaments.
5. The dart throw draw. You can either throw darts at check numbers or photos if handy. By the way, the Wayne's Way staff dartboard has worn out its last Dave Thoreson and Tom Bridges photos. Please forward additional photos to WW staff.
6. The guy we'd like to NOT see around for the rest of the weekend draw. This one is simple, no one likes player X, he plays the #1 seed, and preferably on Friday afternoon. If the draw is a dropdown format, make sure this person gets a bye the first round. You'll only see them on Saturday for a short stint.
7. The guy we'd like to see around for the rest of the weekend draw. This is a trick seeding question. There aren't any of these people we would like to see that much.
8. The idea for a tournament has been bantered around lately. Matches that we would like to see played, like grudge games, dream matchups, or games between two people that have never played against each other but are always saying that they could beat this person. Add a section to the tournament entry form that would allow anyone to request the perfect matchup, and seed this match in the first round.
9. Have the neighbor's wife or 8 year child do the seedings. No one at the tournament would then be responsible for ruining your weekend.
10. Put the top two people against each other in the first round. Hey, spread the hardware wealth. Let the rest of the crowd have a shot at winning a really nice .25 cent digital clock glued on to an L-shaped hunk of plastic (*.10 cents*) to go along with the T-shirt that has the next Mission Impossible mission written on it. We put too much effort in this last one, and don't have any more.

Run your tourneys Waynes' Way.

- ALL TIME GREAT LIST -

by Gene Mock (he does know more than Tom Bridges)

I sure get tired of seeing “active” lists of the alleged “bests.” The only way to determine “active” lists is to form a ladder and play against each other. The only list that does matter is “The All Time Best in the Sacto Area.” And I don’t mean who made their rep somewhere else, but right here in the heartland. I also have to quantify this list by listing players I have only seen. So my apologies to all the Bill Carpenter and Paul Zafferano fans out there.

- #1 **Kevin Soulies.** Numero Uno. Played pros, dominated the Opens up and down the valley. Sheer raw power and unique short stroke-----no girly man, you’ll never see him “dink.”
He’s the King-----Long Live the King!!!
- #2 **Richard Ramirez.** Yeah! I may be a little biased but I played with this guy for darn near 20 years and have seen what this guy can do. Silky smooth, entertaining, exciting low board style. Some of the best matches in Sac town have been between Kevin and Rich. Rich has won more tournaments up and down the valley than any other Sacto player, but he was never a pro. Hell, I’ve seen Tico, Munoz, Silveryra when they were kids watch wide eyed while he played----now that’s cool.
- #3 **Jerry Cooke.** You think of Jerry and the word “Big Hop” always come to mind. But often overlooked was his superb conditioning, focus, and heady game. I only got to watch Jerry in his latter years, but boy! He must have been something in his earlier years. Jerry and Bud Miller, two guys who were always ready to go to war.
- #5 **Mike McCrystle.** “The Round Man.” I have never seen anybody, on the court, with more intensity and the will to win. Win he did and often. I’ve seen him win games by sheer will. He doesn’t know how to lose let alone spell it. This is the guy you want in your foxhole. Besides providing firepower he’ll probably fall on the grenade too.
- #6 **Jack Austin.** National Champ and Class Act!! Enough said.
- #7 **Wayne Salo.** Mr. Ice Water. Cool, deceptive, great shape, smart and great shots. Wayne and Alan Sherrill are the only two players I know with chameleon eyes-----you know, one eye is on the ball and the other eye is on you. Impossible to anticipate.
- #8 **Allie Abdullah Jr.** Good game good player, he’d be listed higher but he’s just a kid and in time he will move up for sure.
That’s it !

- OLYMPIC CLUB HOSPITALITY -

Beginning March 6th, the Olympic Club will have a Free handball play day **EVERY Tuesday** from 4p -8p. Players should enter through the Sutter Street Entrance/garage (*any attire is fine thru here*) at 665 Sutter between Mason and Taylor.

Simply tell security that you are here for the handball play day and you will be asked to sign in. If you want a locker, they can trade a piece of ID (*credit card or drivers license*) for it.

Questions, call Bernie Samet @ 415-345-5101.

- THE DARN GOOD DOZEN -

by Tom Bridges *how the hell does he know?*

1. **Allie Abdullah, Jr** ---- Still the man to beat. Others might have a shot at him now. He's doing a major remodel on his house and baby # 3 is on the way. But talent and confidence remain. Can anybody beat him?
2. **Dave Vincent** ----- This workaholic is determined to be the local Top Gun. Plays the pros (and does well) as often as he can in his effort to improve. Don't look now Allie, but this guy is breathing down your neck.
3. **Rick Rivas** ----- Gets half-a-dozen near aces a game with power serves. Then if you get one back he kills it anyway. Quick and great footwork.
4. **Barry Durham** ----- Not even sure if Barry is playing right now. But it doesn't matter. He's that good.
5. **Billy Wyrsh** ----- The force from the north. What an athlete! Did you ever notice how Billy back tracks to get to the back court? Never loses sight of the ball.
6. **Lance Klug** ----- This mystery man can really stroke that ball. Also fantastic getability (is that a word?). Just doesn't play enough or different people to maximize his ability.
7. **Jaime Fabian** ----- Still not many Jaime sightings locally. But he stays in great shape and plays great when big matches are on the table. Hope to see him at the Sac Open.
8. **Kevin Soulies** ----- After reading Gene Mock's All Time Great list, is there any doubt? Truly skilled and great player that still gets it done despite some medical setbacks.
9. **Wayne Salo** ----- He's baaaaaack! And playing seriously.....well, you know, as if he was serious. Has anyone found those yellow Champion gloves yet?
10. **Carlos Buzo** ----- Seems to improve with age. Always a force to be reckoned with. So competitive..
11. **Cub Eldridge** ----- Still the oldest player on the list. Got a second hole in one in 2006. Evidence of his overall athleticism. Playing Wyrsh has really helped Cub's game.
11. **Todd Lanigan** ----- Todd's first time on the "elite" list. Another gifted "getability" guy. Plays a lot of different players to hone skills.
11. **Jeff Schroader** ----- "The Eagle" because of his wingspan. Continues to improve everyday. Unfortunately we'll lose Jeff in about a year. Moving to Texas.

Note that there is a Baker's Dozen this time. The three players at # 11 are tied. Too close to call. Also on the "fringe".....Ed Campbell.

- OBITUARY -
John Harold (Jack) Tone III

May 13, 1909 - January 5, 2007
Stockton, CA

A great man has gone to his reward on Friday, January 5, 2007. Jack Tone was born, passed on and will remain forever at his beloved home, Jack Tone Ranch.

Bud was an outstanding rancher and leader in his community. With Marge's help, incredible work and dedication, they transformed Jack Tone Ranch into a modern 20th century farm and world famous Arabian horse ranch. A great athlete, Bud was inducted into the Northern California Handball Association (NCHA) Hall of Fame (1984) and the Stockton Athletic Hall of Fame (2003) for his skill and sportsmanship. Jack Tone served 4 terms as Director, President and Vice-President of Stockton-East Water District (SEWD). Bud was an untiring advocate for farmers and instrumental in establishing local water policy. Everything Bud had, he gave freely and graciously to his family and friends. He spoiled us with pure love and so much fun. We can't remember a time spent with Bud when we had anything but Fun! We miss his humor, heart, friendship, intelligence, character and soul. We'll see Bud again someday, God Willing. He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers; sisters and son. Jack (Bud) Tone was crazy in love with Marjory for more than 75 years. They were married September 5, 1932, with 5 daughters; a son; 15 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild.

Memorial Mass at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 11, 2007 at St. Michael's Church, Stockton. Please send your special memories/stories of Bud to Jack Tone Ranch, 9749 N. Jack Tone Rd., Stockton, CA 95215 or JackTone-Ranch@inreach.com

The Tone family requests memorial donations to St. Joachim's Church, PO Box 232, Lockeford, CA 95237; St. Michael's Church, 5882 Ashley Ln., Stockton, CA 95215; Jack Tone Ranch Historical Foundation, PO Box 1392, Lockeford, CA 95237; or Jack Tone Ranch, 9749 N. Jack Tone Rd, Stockton, CA 95215, to establish a handball award.

Editor's note: For those who didn't know Jack, he was one colorful man. Several players can attest to his skills as a "healer". Jack could lay his hands on you, wrap an injury along with an herbal ointment, and mysteriously injuries would disappear. Ask Gene Mock and Jerry Cooke for their personal experiences. And I doubt there are many players over 60 who haven't sampled Jack's "Brandied Cherries" from his ranch. This was the San Joaquin version of moonshine. At the old Jerry Cooke tournaments Jack would leave jars on the table at Carmichael. And of course Jack hosted the legendary Jack Tone Handball Tournament every year. Play is in Stockton, but the real enjoyment was the BBQ at his ranch. So long Jack. We'll miss you.



- WHERE ARE THEY NOW -

by Tom Bridges

This is a list of some players who we haven't heard from or seen in a while. Some of these folks responded to my email for information. For others I only have information through "the grapevine".

Carrie Cooke: Jerry's talented daughter is the mother of 2 and living in Southern California. She is a CHP officer and is married to a CHP officer. No more handball.

Grant Cook: Old Elks and Carmichael player. I ran into 72 year old Grant on the bike trail. After retiring 10 years ago he moved up to Truckee-Donner. Since then divorce and a 3-way bypass caused him to move back to Sacramento. He lives in Selby Ranch and is considering playing handball again.

Jerry Pelfanio: Carmichael and Laguna Creek. Jerry is just coming back from a year off the courts due to a severed Achilles tendon. He continues as a CHP Captain and commander of the San Andreas post.

Harry Ree: Old Elks and Carmichael. Has lived in Anacortes, Washington for the last 10 years or so. Comes down and plays at Carmichael 2 - 3 times a year. Usually when there is a long period of rain or overcast skies in the Seattle area. Still plays 2 - 3 times a week at the Naval base near him. Would welcome visitors for a game if you are in the San Juan Island area.

Steve Ponder: Carmichael and Capital. Steve writes "I have moved to Las Vegas and even was able to find a job with Nevada Power Company. I mainly got the job because I denied I ever heard of a guy named Pete Garris. I really miss the early morning Handball scene in Sacramento. I learned so much!!! My most loyal partner, Earl Green, taught me several new languages. My occasional early bird partner at Signature, Lance Klug, taught me that it is possible to referee and play at the same time. Finally the Animal Hour crowd entertainment committee always managed to provide an expert in any subject that arose and an easy solution to any world problem. Of course these issues were all solved when exhausted players were anchored to the little round table and were in the mood to believe anything after a couple of \$1 Buds. But if you can fool your buddies, who cares about the truth. Visit me at the Las Vegas Athletic Club, just off the Strip. Good handball and great scenery. I miss all you guys (Well some of You)"

Jim Kahue: Carmichael. The Big Kahuna writes "Hi Tom & Sacto Handballers! Gee it was good to talk to you and glad you dropped a card on me. I am still working with the Blind Vendors who lease and run 9 retail stores and the vending machines at the Honolulu Interbational Airport. Since retiring in 1993 after 33 years of State service I worked one year for the State of Hawaii and the next 12 years at this company. It has been great to work in private for profit type business. I am the HR Manager for a company of about 80 people and the owners and the business has been great to work for. Although I stopped playing handball since 4 years ago I manage to play racquetball a few time a year. Although it isn't handball it is easier to find players. I still get to beat them up in the court so I'm happy although I am thinking about checking out the YMCA again to see if I can get back into handball again. The problem here is that everyone seems to be locked into partners and certain times for play which doesn't matchup with my excercise time. My weight is down and I do 24 hr fitness 3-4 times a week but I still miss h-ball, especially my right hand kill shots and my serves. Will let you know if and what happens on my re-entry to h-ball. I'll be in Sacto on the 24th to the 30th of May at my son Chris' place in Elk Grove. Hope to see you guys at aninal hour at Carmichael on Sunday. Aloha."

Norm Duroff: Old Elks and Carmichael. Norm tells us "For the past three years I have been living and working as a Realtor in Sun City Roseville. We do have a fitness center here, but no handball courts. I sure do miss the game and all the guys. Handball players are a special breed! "The best"!!!"

Mike Achziger: Carmichael. Mike says "I moved my CPA practice to Citrus Heights, and have managed to eliminate my I-80 commute. My wife and I are getting our family house in Rocklin ready to sell, and plan on moving to Sun City in Roseville. I still work out frequently, but usually go to the Wenmat Roseville club (the old Kangaroo Courts). Golf is my primary hobby, and I play two or three times a week at Sierra View. I can't tell you how much I miss handball, and the comaraderie with all of the great guys".

Dave Parker: Carmichael. From Dave we learn “I Moved to Fresno in 1994. I’m still in the fruit business, now working with Fruit Patch, the biggest shipper of fresh peaches, nectarines and plums in the industry. We also ship quite a few fresh grapes. About 12 million boxes total. Been here three and a half years. When we moved to Fresno I was the marketing director for North America representing all the peach, nectarine and plum growers in California. With Fruit Patch I’m still covering North America but I’m also getting around to Asia and Latin America. Sadly, no handball for a few years because of shoulder injury (not handball related), but still work out almost daily. Always good to get your updates!”

Karl (Gus) Gustafson: Gus tells us “I’m currently a member of the Laguna Creek Racquet Club (LCRC) and have had to resort to playing racquetball because there are no other handball players. Hopefully, Jerry Pelfanio, whose also a member of LCRC, will be able to start playing again fairly soon. If so, I’ll start playing him during the week and at Carmichael on Sunday mornings. If not, I’ll probably quit LCRC and go back to WENMAT--and start playing at Alhambra.”

Frank Walter: Old Elks and Carmichael. Never at a loss for words, the Spider writes “Thanks, Tom, for the inquiry. OK, update: I had knee replacement surgery, both, at Northwestern Medical Center in Chicago in the fall of 2005 (Sept.). Jo Ann and I were headed for Bulgaria (we just couldn’t handle the Bush’s armed aggression against an innocent people anymore), but after my recovery, Jo Ann decided (she’s the “decider”) to return to her former hometown Portland, Oregon. We returned to Portland in March to look for a place to squat and finally found one in December. Right now I am in the process of remodeling. I tried to play handball for a few months (the doc said doubles in tennis would be OK since he didn’t know anything about handball--the world’s greatest game with the finest people playing). I tried but bionic knees limit mobility and don’t seem to work too well. I was half speed with two bad wheels before surgery as you remember when we played at Carmichael; after surgery it was put up stakes to see if the Spider was moving time. I guess playing handball for forty years takes a toll on the ol’ bod, but I’m 79 and maybe that has something to do with my playing. What do you think? Spider”

Guy Hoover: Elks. A third shoulder surgery finally made an improvement for Guy. He is playing again but not near the skill level he once was. Guy retired about 2 - 3 years ago and built a home in Coarse Gold (foothills above Fresno).

Chuck Fishbourne: Capital. Chuck retired and moved to Hemet in Southern California. Still plays handball there.

Joe Kovacs: Alhambra. Joe stopped playing handball due to chronic knee problems. He still works out almost daily at Alhambra and is in excellent physical shape. Athletic passions now are biking and rock climbing.

Lou Vistali: Capital. Lou and wife moved up to El Dorado Hills. Handball status unknown.

Joe Pearce: Elks, Carmichael, Alhambra, Turn Verein. Joe had knee replacement surgery a few years ago, but it has never quite been the same. Can’t play handball due to chronic swelling and can’t watch handball because it kills him to not be playing. But still active in volunteer work (including the reason you’re reading this newsletter).

Sam Peruch: Old Elks, Carmichael. 83 year old Sam still gets on the handball court several times a week. But not to play, he runs around the court for exercise and throws the ball to work on his coordination. Cub Eldridge, Lance Klug and Bruce Anderson have invited him to join them but Sammy just says (like always), “I hate doubles”.

Rostik Storozuk: Gold River, Carmichael. There was a Rostik sighting a few weeks ago at Carmichael. But he is not playing handball now. Needs a hip replacement.

Mike Bossert: Carmichael, Gold River. The Math Man writes “Thanks for keeping in touch. I’m not an “old player,” but rather a former player. When we moved here in 2000, after retiring from CSUS, I had hoped to continue playing handball. There were few local players so I tried some racquetball for a while. My left ankle was causing more problems (due to too many years of playing with low-cut shoes) and so I gradually gave it all up. In June of 2004 I had symptoms leading to a “Whipple” procedure in August to remove a cancerous growth

blocking my bile duct & pancreatic duct. In March of 2005 a periodic blood test found something had taken off again. I spent 5 months on chemotherapy before it started to lose effectiveness. I was lucky to get on a trial program for “oxaliplatin” from Oct. through March of 2006. It was very effective and I have been off chemo for 11 months now. I do take a really expensive drug called Sutent, luckily covered by my CA insurance. I currently get a blood test every 6 weeks and see my oncologist every 12 weeks. My weight is back to about 198 after being down to 182 at one point. I feel better each day and wish I could see my CA friends more often. Best wishes to all..”. Mike

Rick Mares: Carmichael. Moved to Southern California over 10 years ago, and now to Las Vegas. Is a superintendent for a construction company. Still plays handball regularly.

Jim Flood: Old Elks, Carmichael. This former NCAA boxing champion still visits Carmichael almost daily. Works out on machines. Tried to make a short lived comeback to handball, but his long term leg problems wouldn't allow it.

Bud Lanigan: Old Elks, Carmichael, Gold River: Bud had knee replacement surgery . Tried to make a handball comeback but it was not to be. Visits Carmichael regularly to work out and stay in great shape.

Nick Laplaca: Old Elks, Carmichael, Riverside. Works out hard daily at Riverside. No handball, but like to keep in touch with all of us.

Carl Von Cleff: Old Elks, Carmichael. No more handball, but works out regularly at Carmichael. Also part of the legendary Pinochle Group playing 2 -3 times a week upstairs.

Pete Revello: Old Elks, Carmichael. No more handball, but another who works out often at Carmichael. 2nd member of the Pinochle Group.

Art Eissinger: Old Elks, Carmichael. Art has been through some major back surgeries, but has beat them all. Still swims regularly at Carmichael and is another member of the Pinochle Group. They have had to call security several times on these guys, but like the individuals involved, they just “keep on truckin”.

Erik Eissinger: Carmichael. This talented son of Art won the national juniors 18 and under title in the mid 70's. The 48 year old works as a superintendent for Lund Construction of Sacramento. Married with 2 children and 1 grandchild. He has not played handball for years.

Tim Ryan: Alhambra, Elks. Tim spent a year as a contractor to POST near Alhambra. Played handball during the week and commuted home to Redlands (Sou Cal) on the weekends. Still playing down south and still winning National Championships in rising age brackets.

Mike Connors: owns and operates Hap's Restaurant in Pleasanton. It's a high end steakhouse. He also recently purchased another restaurant in Livermore. Mike works out regularly in the morning at the Club Sport in Pleasanton. But no handball for years. Mike had some serious surgery several years ago (brain tumor).

Well I know I've missed a lot of people that you members are interested in. But some didn't respond to my email request for updates, and others I just overlooked. So if anyone out there wants to be “updated” let me know.

Tom Bridges



- LEAGUE'S NEW FORMAT APPEARS POPULAR -

A format drafted after the popular Bay Counties League was adopted this year. The change was made in an effort to inject some new enthusiasm in our SAHA league. Judging by the participation after the first round, it appears to be working. Instead of biweekly matches between 2 teams the new plan has 4 teams playing a round robin on 2 separate half days of competition. The 'A' Division has 4 teams and includes the Elks # 6 (welcome back), Carmichael, Alhambra and the new powerhouse from the North, Grass Valley. The well balanced 'B' Division has 3 teams from Carmichael, 2 from the Elks, Alhambra, Capital, and the Turn Verein for a total of 8 squads. For the 'A's, the winner will be decided by a double round robin schedule. For the 'B's an initial round robin elimination round was held to reduce the field to 4 teams. Then a "tournament" format was used to complete the round of play. Each contest allowed a team to accumulate points by winning individual matches. The points accumulated after the initial round will move on to the next and final round to be held in May and June of 2007. The team with the most points in each division will then be declared League Champion for this year. The first half of competition concluded on January 7. The standings are as follows:

'A' Division

Grass Valley	15 points
Carmichael	11 points
Elks	10 points
Alhambra	(withdrew)

'B' Division

Capital	21 points
Carmichael White	19
Elks # 3	17
Carmichael Red	13
Alhambra	9
Turn Verein	5
Carmichael Blue	3
Elks # 2	3

There is quite a bit of parity among teams. Point totals so far are misleading in the 'B' Division. This is because the 4 teams that didn't make it out of the initial round robin did not have the opportunity for an additional match. That could totally turn around in the second half.

Team captains get ready for the second round schedule coming up in May/June.



- WENMAT IN-HOUSE TOURNAMENT -

50 + players too part in the 14th annual Wenmat In-House Handball Tournament in mid August. All the matches were held at Carmichael Athletic Club. As usual the competition was fierce, particularly in the Open/A division. At the traditional prime rib dinner Saturday night tourney director Tom Bridges gave a speech about several former Carmichael players that have since passed away.

Results of play are as follows:

Category	1st Place	2nd Place
Open Doubles	Cub Eldridge - Lance Klug	Kent Craney - Ron Guevara
A Doubles	Ed Ettinger - Kevin Kuzmich	Jim Summers - Don Hutchinson
Master A Doubles	John Warren - Dave Nava	Don Fitzell - Alex Farfan
Master B Doubles	Erik Naisbitt - Gus Gustafson	Jack Moser - John Sordi
60 + Singles	Art Grix	Dave Thoreson
60 + Doubles	Pete Garris - Ron Marquez	Jim Lambert - Dave Rios
65 + Doubles	Mike McCrystle - Crosby Winn	Glenn Pierce - Rich Hansard
C Singles	Andre Anderson	Andres Mendez
C Doubles	Andres Mendez - Jeremy Kohler	Bruce Anderson - Andre Anderson

- SAHA FUN DAYS -

We will have 3 fun days in 2007. These handball days are put on by SAHA in order to introduce players to different clubs, maintain camaraderie in our tight knit community, andwell.....play some great ball. It's a golden opportunity to play with different partners/opponents and just HAVE A GOOD TIME. So SAHA members please participate. They are put on for YOUR benefit and YOU are paying for them in your annual dues. Non members are welcome but must pay a \$7 guest fee to SAHA (we'd rather have you join for the annual dues of \$20).

Thanks for Cherylann Mendonca, Joe Chavez, and Ron Domingos for stepping up and volunteering to host these 3 events.

March 18 (Sunday) ----- Elks ----- 9 am - 3 pm
August 4 (Saturday) ----- Turn Verein ---- 9 am - 3 pm
Sept 22 (Saturday) ----- Capital ----- 9 am - 3 pm

The Elks and Capital are well established fun day places. Their excellent hospitality never disappoints. In addition the level of handball is first class.

This year we will revisit the Turn Verein for an expected good time. The Turn has the oldest active handball courts in Sacramento. Built in 1925 the 2 all wooden courts have the ghosts of many fine players roaming the gallery.

- The Sacramento Handball Association Presents -

SACRAMENTO OPEN HANDBALL TOURNAMENT

April 13 - 15, 2007

Elks # 6 and Riverside Athletic Club

This years tourney will probably be the best ever. Come out and support local handball by participating in our biggest and best event of the year.

- Continuous hospitality
- Excellent handball
- Plenty of camaraderie

*Applications are available at all local clubs
and*

SAHA website: www.sactohandball.com

- SECOND SERVE STUFF -

Rick Leonard's son Joshua just signed a scholarship offer. The highly touted defensive lineman is headed for the University of Hawaii. He is presently attending Sierra College. Rainbow head coach June Jones said Josh is the most skilled defensive lineman they have ever recruited from the mainland. Go Josh! Go Bows!

Cub Eldridge garnished a hole- in-one recently. This is his second ace. The hole was # 17 at Ancil Hofman. 135 yards with an 8 iron. The feat was witnessed by his regular partner Bruce Mosley.

Pair's Wine Bar-Restaurant Sets Some Precedents By Bob Shallit - Bee Columnist

Marcus and Kolea Marquez are partners in L Wine Lounge and Urban Kitchen, which is opening soon at 18th and L streets in midtown Sacramento. They are advertising their establishment with life-size pictures of themselves, background, and their chef and wine director.

There are plenty of "firsts" at L Wine Lounge and Urban Kitchen, soon to open in midtown.

*It's the first entrepreneurial venture for husband-and-wife partners **Marcus and Kolea Marquez**, after years of working for other restaurateurs. It's the first local restaurant designed by Kristi Daggett, whose previous projects have been in L.A. It features furniture and a huge wine vault designed by Sacramentan William Earle.*

Editor's note: Marcus is the son of **Ron & Virginia Marquez**. Marquez was quite active as a youth handballer. Good luck Marcus & Kolea!!!!

While browsing through some old issues of Sacramento magazine I found that in December 2003 Carmichael/Alhambra handballer **Dr. Art Grix, Jr** was voted as the top doctor in his field (Genetics) for the entire Sacramento area. The voters were 3000 area physicians. Art has been a long time employee of Kaiser. Belated congratulations AG.

Jim Triplett has relocated to West Point, CA after a 3 time try at retirement. He moved there from Fremont and his career was mostly with the CHP. Jim's (prior) handball skills lie somewhere between really damn good and legendary. He has had many runs at National Championships including several successful results. While living in Pomona various partners included Dennis Perryman and Skip McDowell. In Northern California they included Mike Dunne, Sr, Larry Aguilar, Kelly Russell, and Jerry Cooke among others. Jim now plays 1 - 2 days a week with other Foothill Group guys at the New York Fitness Club in Jackson. Call him at (209) 293 4867 for lessons.

Alhambra's favorite son **George Valverde** was appointed by Governor Arnold to be Director of the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). His legislative confirmation is expected this month. George has held increasingly responsible positions with the State since moving to Sacramento in 1976. He was promoted to his current position from Undersecretary for the State and Consumer Services Agency. Congrats George! Now.....about that ticket I got.....

FLASH!! **Roger Ebbett** sighting!! At Alhambra a few weeks ago. His previous knee problems have apparently subsided and he is playing really good ball. A member of the Foothill Group he normally plays in Jackson. Friend Hal Faresh brought him down as a guest.

Carmichael's **Vito Blomo** after retiring from SMUD a few years ago is setting up a business venture. He speaks fluent Italian and is enamored with his Italian heritage. Since he spends 2 - 3 months a year in Italy, he hopes to guide small groups on walking tours. Although he is familiar with the whole country his specialty areas are Tuscany, the Lakes Region (northern Italy), and Bari on the eastern coast. He caters to groups of 6 - 8 people but says if there are good looking chicks, 2 - 3 will suffice. Check out his website at www.Italiawalkingtours.com. Vito truly is in it for the cultural experience and will keep charges most affordable.

continued next page

- 2006 - 2007 / SAHA CALENDAR -

Date	Event/Location	Contact
Mar 2-4	Nor Cal Regional & Pro Stop Concord	Tom Stove 209 575-2758 toms@ushandball.org
Mar 10	Dash for Cash Capital AC Sacramento	Show up for 10 am for draw
Mar 16-18	St Paddy's Day Doubles South End San Francisco	Wayne Black 707 312-0570 rocketman512@comcast.net
March 18	SAHA Fun Day Elks #6 Sacramento	Show up 10 - 4
Mar 22-25	USHA Nat'l Master Doubles Kansas City	Tom Disidore 913 908-9933 tdisidore @ blockandco.com
Mar 30-Apr 2	April Fool's Petaluma AC	Petaluma Valley AC 707 789-9898
Apr 13-15	SAHA Sac Open Elks #6 & Riverside AC	Dave Thoreson 916 853-9078 dpthoreson@aol.com
Apr 30-Mar 6	USHA 4 Wall Nat'l Univ of Minnesota	Vern Roberts 520 795-0434 handball@ushandball.org
May 11-13	Cinco De Mayo South End San Francisco	Wayne Black 707 312-0570 rocketman512@comcast.net
May 25-27	Semper Fi Marine Corp MCRD San Diego	Ray Leidich 541 745-5937 leidichr@proaxis.com

I may be the last to know this but **Rick Leonard**, along with a partner, has been the owner of the Big C Athletic Club in Concord for the past 2 years. The buildings and property there were donated to a charitable youth foundation by **Ken Hofman**. However the business itself belongs to Rick and his partner. He still is the manager for the Capital Athletic Club as well. But the Sacramento Club still belongs to Mr. Hofman (for now?). And finally, speaking of Mr. Ken Hofman, this man has been a huge booster of handball for many years. But I learned from his right hand man Bob Solario recently that Ken and a gentleman named Ken Behring have donated almost 1,000,000 wheelchairs to needy recipients all over the world. They work primarily through Rotary Clubs to determine needs and numbers. The Kens then have the chairs built and shipped to countries of need and they often personally deliver the chairs themselves.

Tom Bridges



