

Tennis Committee Meeting Agenda – November 10, 2008

- **Bring Meeting To Order:**

Attending: Ted Poppinga, Jan Bloomhall, Loretta Poppinga, Marsha DeVries, Judy Jones, Teresa Crocker, Frank Caroselli, Niles Kin, Sally Mellendorf, Terry Brady, Mariann Crouch, Connie Hess, T.A. Niles, Mike Curran, Rich Fox, Tim Baldwin

- **Tennis Director's Report**

- T.A. has been in touch with Elaina and she is at home recovering from her surgery and is expected to be out a total of at least six weeks. Our temporary shop person is Lori, and she is doing an excellent job.

- **Gulf Harbour Golf & Country Club - Summary Facility Status Report**

- **Staffing**

It has been suggested that we hire a part time employee to work on Sundays in the Fitness Center. Between tennis, the pool, and fitness activities, there are more responsibilities than one person can handle adequately.

- **Courts**

All of the courts have been resurfaced, with lines redone on courts 3, 5, 7 and some on 2. However, there are ongoing issues with the watering system which cannot be corrected unless the courts are completely dug up. The situation is most dire on courts one and two, with courts three and four being the next highest priority.

- **Accessories**

The Tread-Blasters can't be installed until January due to the expense (\$1500.00).

- **Fencing**

Although some of the fencing on select courts has been upgraded, there are fence posts (on court 2 and 4 in particular) that need to be replaced.

- **Lighting**

Lights appear to be in good condition, but we recommend getting a different timing system. Spoke with Volney who suggested that we increase the timer capacity.

- **Storage Area**

We need better storage space for ball carts and hoppers than we have now. However, based upon a conversation with Mr. Ostrom regarding the placement of the shed, it appears as though the expense will be considerably greater than anticipated and the project will need to be on hold until takeover is complete.

- **Pro Shop**

We have been directed to decrease the inventory in anticipation of the pending takeover. Everything has been put on sale from 25% - 60% off retail and there isn't much left in the pro shop. We can still order specific items if requested by members.

- **Director's Office**

Several members have suggested that a window is needed in the Director's office and I concur. Given the likely expense of that project, it too will be pursued after January.

- **Follow-up Items**

- Status of court irrigation problems – the irrigation system is deteriorating and will need replacement in the near future. Current estimates for all 8 courts is around \$350k. Martin has been asked to look and the current water issues on court 2 to see if we can improve it. The roots of the ficus trees are the big issue on court 2 and will need to be addressed with the court is renovated.
- Review guest policy & enforcement – All tennis captains and committee members have been asked to speak to members who bring guests to the courts before 11:00am in violation of our rules. Please remind them of our policies and if it occurs again it should be brought to Mike, T.A.'s, or Joel's attention
- Foot washers - WCI is deferring this item to next year. To date this expense has not been noted in the turnover budget estimates.

- Windscreen logos- quotes – Screens are on order and should be up by the end of the year.
- Online Reservation System – Mike and T.A. have demo'ed the Chelsea court reservation system, and Bob has demo'd the Club Essential's court reservation system. More evaluation needs to be done, but it is our goal to find an on-line court reservation system that enables members to sign-up for courts via the web.
- Shed proposal- for teaching carts – This project to get the ball carts out of the fitness center hallways will likely be shifted to a 2009 budget request.
- Inventory – In anticipation of the year-end turnover Mike is reducing the inventory as low as possible.
- Organization of Ladies Team Captains Meeting – Jan may organize this meeting in early December.
- **New Business**
 - 2009 Tennis Budget – Bob is involved in weekly budget meetings to try and extract all of the tennis & fitness related expenses out of WCI generic “amenities” categories and specify them in projections for the new members owned club budget. This is a very complex and ongoing analysis aimed at getting the new accounting system ready for member turnover.
 - **November 19th Tennis Family Night Dinner – Please invite your friends and teammates... the signup sheet is on the bulletin board.**
 - February 14th Memorial Foundation Format – Lili Canfield – Bob has talked with Donna Cicale on the Gulf Harbour Memorial Foundation Board. Donna had endorsed the idea of allowing outside tennis fans to come to our February 14th Memorial Tennis event. Bob and Mike have suggested to the event coordinator, Lili Canfield and her committee, that they might consider having a Pro-League style event in an attempt to have 200-300 tennis fans come, watch, and use this event to raise money for the Foundation through the sale of tickets, beverages, raffles, prizes, etc. The Committee members thought this was an excellent idea and encourage Lili to work with Mike to organize it.

League & Team Captain Reports

- Ted Poppinga & Captain's Council meeting - There was a very lengthy discussion of Ted's appeal to the men's league Captain's council regarding his involuntary shift to another team. Ted feels he was treated unfairly by the Council, and Ted provided the Committee with a very thorough presentation of the facts and frustrations he has, and why he feels, based on his win/loss records, he should not have been placed the team he was assigned to. Tim, speaking on behalf of the Captain's Council, stated that the Council had offered Ted the captain's position on the team he was placed on (which was declined), and that after consideration of all the facts (including Ted's win/loss records and their subjective evaluation), the Council believes this is the correct team for Ted and for both teams involved. Furthermore, Tim said there were several other players who were shifted from one team to another this year without accusations of unfairness. He said the Captain's Council's only objective is to make the very difficult and often subjective assessments necessary to help facilitate player and team alignments aimed at competitively equalizing all of the men's Gulf Harbour teams. He said there was no personal or Council malice involved in Ted's assignment to another team this year.

Terry, Rich, Ted, and Tim engaged in dialog with all of the attendees debating the role of the Captain's Council and whether the Tennis Committee should be involved in establishing overriding team selection guidelines that would establish a fairness policy, and whether we should provide subcommittee oversight to individual player assignments for men's teams at each level. Bob and Mike both mentioned that fact that in Lee County, it is the league coordinator, and the members of the league itself, that is the governing body for all teams. Terry mentioned that he had been one of the organizers of the independent men's Captain's Council a few years ago in an effort to provide better communications and cooperation between all of our men's teams. He feels the current Captain's Council may not be fulfilling his original intended role, and that they should not be trying to balance all of the teams by shifting players. Terry thinks the Committee should establish and enforce more “structure and rules” for the team captains to follow. This was debated in further discussion, and it was noted by Tim that the system actually seems to be functioning pretty well if only 1 player out of 75 men is registering a personal complaint. He believes the captain's council achieved its goal of balancing the men's teams in the best ways possible.

Bob noted that traditionally, and according to USTA team tennis guidelines which are what the Lee County League follows, issues of fairness like Ted's are handled between the player, the captain, and the other players on that team. If a team captain and his fellow teammates did not want someone traded to another team it would not happen. If the players are not happy with their captain they can always vote to change captains. And ultimately, if the majority of the captains and players are not happy with how the Captain's Council operates, they can easily withdraw or disband the Council. When it comes to tennis team dynamics and fairness the team system is designed to be self governing.

It was also noted, that unlike the ladies Lee County leagues, there is no rating system for the men players and teams. League officials promote a competitive culture of captains "recruiting" the best players available to play at every level. To Bob's and Mike's knowledge there is no precedence for a Club Tennis Committee to intercede with another layer of Club imposed league, team, player guidelines or rules in anyway trying to enforce team fairness standards or limitations, as Ted and a couple of the attendees suggest the Committee should consider.

As the overall governing body of tennis rules and regulations, the USTA sets up this team system whereby each captain volunteers to step-up and organize a team, and they along with their teammates, set the standards and tone of that team according to the wishes of all players. For the good, or the bad, of this system, captains in the men's Lee County leagues are motivated to recruit the best players they can find... usually they start with other players or friends close to their own level of play. Mike said that in his experience it just a fact that some of teams are happy to play for fun and camaraderie, and they make sure everyone gets to play as equally as possible. Other teams play strictly to win, and the team's players accept the fact that they have authorized their captain to make the appropriate judgments, realizing that the better players will get more playing time than the other players. The personality of every team is set by each captain and his teammates together, and has never been the role of the Tennis Committee.

As the meeting was running very late, the Committee members deferred further discussion on this issue to next months meeting. Bob suggested that between now and our next meeting, the Captain's Council get together for discussion on these issues and come back to the Committee with more feedback on how they view Council's role in our club's Lee County men's teams.

The Next Meeting has been moved from its originally posted date. **It is now scheduled for Wednesday, December 10th at 2:00pm**

Tennis Event Calendar

2008-2009 TENNIS CALENDAR		
Month	Date(s)	Event
November		
	10 th	Tennis Committee & Captains Meeting 4:00pm
	19 th	Tennis Family Night Dinner
	22 nd	Saturday Tennis Team Challenge
December	10 th	Tennis Committee & Captains Meeting 2:00pm

Please Remind Your Friends and Teammates to come out and Support our Pros in the Pro League Matches. See the Schedule on the Next Page!

Tennis Pro League Schedule

2008-09 Season

11/21/08	Fiddlesticks
12/12/08	Palmira
12/19/08	The Landings
01/09/09	Heritage Palms
01/30/09	Grandezza
02/13/09	Lexington Country Club
02/27/09	Colonial
03/13/09	Bonita Bay

**Admission is free! Come out and support our Gulf Harbour
tennis pros!**