

Tennis Committee Meeting Minutes – March 5, 2008

- **Bring Meeting To Order**
 - **In Attendance:** Alan Canfield, Bob Ostrom, Jan Bloomhall, Jim Rollero, Jeff Belcher, Loretta Poppinga, Terry Brady
- **Follow-up Items**
 - Progress report – Volney has been assigned the task of finding a source of plastic or other kind of caps or protection on the ends of the bleachers between courts 6 & 7
 - Hooks for hanging tennis bags have been installed. The committee suggested additional hooks between courts 5 & 6, which Jeff said he would take care of.
 - Discussion about Tennis Memorial Event – 2007 fund raising \$18,000. 2008 fund raising \$1600.00. Bob has recently talked with Donna Cicale, a Director of the Memorial Foundation, about having a tennis celebrity exhibition open to select outside clubs. Donna said she thought the Foundation would agree to it as long as it was a separate event run by the tennis group with money donated to the foundation. Al and Lili volunteered to be on the short list of organizers for next year and Jeff said he would help enlist the pros. Much more planning needs to be done next fall.
 - The committee also discussed the possibility of Gulf Harbour hosting one or more tournaments annually that would be open all local tennis players. Revenue from such an event could be donated to charity.
 - Everyone thought that last month's Mixed Doubles tournament went very well and commended Jeff on his efforts.
 - Parking Lot Reconfiguration – The committee reviewed the recent changes to parking lot due to zoning complaint filed by a club member. The committee still believes that other configurations should be taken into consideration by the Club and other committees.

Tennis Director's Report

- WCI Cup Challenge - Set with players; Anna Pitts, Sunil Malkani, Maxwell Thompson, Carlotta Clark, Jemin Martinsen, Ted Watrous. Thanks for participating.
- Saturday R.R.- March 8th will be pre-set with the rotations as staff will be attending the WCI Event
- Members Memorial was a success. Members were treated to gift bags, additional gifts from the pro shop as well as a very nice breakfast at Johnny Brown's. Thank you for everyone attending. Special thanks to Lili and Alan Canfield Jr. for all their help with the event.
- Men's and Women's Club Doubles Championships held March 14-15-16. As of today, the sign-ups include 35 teams. The cut off date to sign up is Sunday, March 9th• The draw will be posted on the bulletin board Tuesday, March 11th and all participants will receive a phone call from Elaina with their start time.

New Business

Starting this week, WCI hired a full-time person to do nothing but clean the Fitness center, handle the spa and fitness laundry, clean the tennis court walkways, bleachers, and foot washer areas. It has been suggested that we take this opportunity to outline specific cleaning criteria, and develop a schedule for keeping the court walkways and bleachers clean.

Jim Rollero volunteered to create a prioritized list of facility and cleanliness items that the committee feels needs attention. Jim will follow-up with weekly inspections and coordinate these efforts with the staff and tennis committee.

Beverage Controversy: At issue is a policy that dates back many years, implemented because the club rules prohibit the consumption of food and beverages not purchased or prepared by the club. To offer a solution the club and tennis pro graciously began a policy of providing drinks to captains of league teams. The pro staff has also established a policy of providing Champaign for ladies teams that win 4 positions in any given league match. Over the years, prohibition of coolers and food has not been enforced because some captains, like Tim Baldwin, Bev Adams, and others chose to provide their own assortment of beverages and food. However, to date any captain that asked for it would receive a stocked cooler from the pro staff for their matches. Several weeks ago one of our team captains asked for a cooler and Jeff denied his request. Furthermore, Jeff notified us that the ladies teams would no longer be rewarded with champagne, and the teams currently receiving beverages would be cut off immediately.

Since this beverage issue seems like such a petty problem I'm inclined to suggest we just let the cooler issue go and let the captains provide their own coolers, and let the ladies buy their own Champaign, and be done with this. However, most of you have indicated that we should try to make sure that \$1,200.00 is spent on the tennis program in some way, which is at the heart of these issues anyway. Today the committee accepted the idea of making sure these funds are spent on the tennis program as intended. The committee voted, and Jeff agreed, that the \$1,200.00 would be applied to other tennis events the Tennis Committee recommends. For example: offset the cost of the annual tennis celebration with this \$1,200.00. by possibly lowering the price of admission significantly to all attendees, or offer a much better dinner menu (ie: something like steak & lobster, 2 free glasses wine, etc.) rather than the usual buffet. Bob and Sally Mellendorf will be coordinating the annual celebration and work with the club on what options we have.

Saturday Round Robins - The committee discussed Terry Brady's concerns about the dwindling attendance at Saturday Round Robins – see excerpts of Terry's email below.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND: The Saturday RR was begun approximately 10 years ago while the club was still in its infancy. The club has grown exponentially since its inception but the RR attendance has been rapidly declining for the past two years.

The RR has been the most efficient means we have to introduce new members to old members. It serves as a vehicle to allow members who return after an extended GH absence to reconnect with the other players. In short, it is the glue that bonds a cross section of our tennis community. Its time should be considered sacred.

The attendance has dwindled to a point that there is rarely a Saturday when all courts are used, which is exactly the opposite of a few years ago when there was a waiting list of players. In fact, in the past it was a known fact that you had better be signed up by the middle of the week to play the following Saturday. This is not true today.

This decline of RR popularity has caused the staff to discuss the likelihood next Fall of decreasing the program from two rounds to one round.

It is a well-known fact that the higher skilled players are the portion of active tennis players who have chosen to not play in the Saturday RR. Instead, they have chosen to form their own RR due to better pairings. This has led to a clique mentality that is counter productive to a friendly club.

Another problem associated with the Saturday RR is that it has gone from a consistent Saturday meeting occasion for the tennis members to a time for staff to allow the WCI Challenge and other purposes that interfere with a consistent time to allow members to plan and meet. I suggest that the Saturdays are allocated for our RR in the AM and all other activities in the PM or on Sundays.

The committee reviewed Terry's email and his presentation. It was pointed out that many of the so-called higher skilled players play so many times a week, that they feel it necessary to take Saturday's off. Those players that have migrated to other Saturday morning groups feel the need to play in competition at the same level.

It was decided that Jeff would work on improving the pairings on Saturday mornings and everybody will be given a rating by the pro staff that will not be disclosed to the members, but will be used by Jeff and his staff to try and improve the pairings and hopefully restore the "fun" to Saturday mornings, and thus encourage more players to sign-up.

Spring Intramural Tennis

John Hess and Alan Canfield presented their ideas about starting a club Intramural competition this spring after the Lee County leagues are over. The committee thought this was a great idea to encourage more participation this spring. Loretta Poppinga suggested that the ladies would like to have a similar Intramural competition, and she volunteered to get an assistant and organize a similar program for the ladies. Alan and John said they would share their information with her. Alan will be posting a slide on Channel 95 to let people know about it.

- **Play begins March 18th & runs thru April 24th**
- **Play weekly @ 1PM Tuesday or Thursday**
- **Sign up @ tennis desk & limited to first 48**

Tennis Ladder

Jim Rollero suggested that we consider a tennis ladder for all tennis players in the club that would make pairings and league teams more competitive and easier to rate for round robins and leagues. He suggested that we experiment with the Intramural teams to see how it goes. Bob pointed out some of the difficulties, especially with the ladies Lee County ratings that might conflict with the club ladder rankings. Bob suggested that this subject would require a much longer meeting with as many team captains attending as possible to get a feeling about how everyone would feel about instituting a ladder.

Facilities Report

- What can we do to prevent water being frequently turned off at foot washers... Jeff said that they have been working on the irrigation pipes recently and that is why the water has been off and on lately.
- The committee discussed that need to roll the courts at least once a month to keep the lines from popping up. Bob suggested that they close a few courts on Sunday afternoon a least once a month to roll the courts. Jeff will work on making the necessary arrangements.
- Pin holes in court 6 & 7 canvas canopy – can we replace it in 2008 budget? – 2009?

Upcoming Events

- Sign-up for the March 16th Tennis Mexican Fiesta after the club doubles championships. Jeff will raffle off two Club provided \$25.00 door prizes. From approx. 10:00-3:00pm that day, the club will have the golf beverage cart stop at the tennis courts with sandwiches and drinks for spectators.
- Sally Mellendorf will coordinate the Annual Tennis Celebration Dinner (same music group as last year) – April 12th

March	5th	Monthly Tennis Committee and Captains Meeting
	14-15-16	Men's & Women's Doubles Championships (3) Flights SIGN UP NOW ON THE TENNIS BULLETIN BOARD
	16th	Tennis Mexican Fiesta
April	2nd	Monthly Tennis Committee and Captains Meeting
	11th & 12th	Davis Cup Tennis Event
	12th	Annual Tennis Celebration Banquet
	26th & 27th	Wimble/Scramble - Tennis & Golf
May	7th	Monthly Tennis Committee and Captains Meeting

Team Captain's Report

- Nothing reported

Tennis Information on-line www.gulfharbour.net/tennis

The Tennis 2008 Event Calendar is on-line now, Jeff's monthly Newsletter, Home match schedules, Lee County league standings, USTA league standings, recent team highlights

Adjournment