

FAIRFIELD COUNTY TENNIS LEAGUE
Minutes of Annual Meeting
April 6, 2011

President Ed Weiss called the meeting to order at 7:17 P.M. at Woodway Country Club, Darien. He thanked the Woodway Club for giving us the use of a meeting room. He noted that we are grateful to John Schmidt, a member of Woodway, for making the arrangements for the FCTL annual meeting. He also thanked the league officers, Board and team captains for their work on the League's behalf. He noted that this is the FCTL's 46th year.

President Weiss announced that the starting dates for League play this year will be May 18th & 19th. The scheduled finishing dates will be July 27th & 28th.

Roy Anderson mentioned that entry forms for the Play In May Tournament which supports Norwalk Grassroots Tennis, a free program that brings tennis to about 400 youngsters in the Bridgeport, Norwalk, and Stamford Housing Communities are available.

Upon motion and second from the floor the Minutes of the 2010 Annual Meeting were approved.

Brian Skinner referenced a handout of the Treasurer's report that indicated a cash balance of \$15,474.88 as of December 31, 2010. He recommended that dues remain at the same level as last year, \$35/ team and emphasized that the responsibility for making sure the dues are paid on a timely basis rests with the Captain of the highest team in the league. The Treasurer's report was approved and the dues recommendation was adopted unanimously.

Roy presented the recommendations of the Nominating Committee for directors, officers and nominating committee per the attached. Upon motion, second and show of hands, the directors, officers and nominating committee members were approved by the clubs present. New board member Chuck Milot was welcomed and resigning board member, Casey Jones, was thanked for his service.

Ed Weiss then announced the winners of the 2010 Alex Reddin Tournament. Ed also reported that in an attempt to increase participation in the tournament, which in past years has been disappointing, the 2011 tournament will be held at the beginning of the season. He reported that there are already more participants signed up than there were players last year. The date for the 2011 tournament is May 14th at the New Canaan Field Club and the C.C. of New Canaan.

The President awarded the League trophy to Four Seasons #1 as winner of Division 1 of the open League. He announced the other final standings for the 2010 season and proposed the admission of New Canaan Field Club #4, Fairfield Hunt Club #2 and Redding C.C. as additional teams in the open league. These teams were approved by floor vote. Ed also reported that Rolling Hills dropped one of their teams from the open division

Keith Rudolph presented the proposed 2011 divisional lineups for the open league, specifically noting that they are preliminary and subject to change before the season begins. He asked all captains to review the schedule carefully and let him know of any problems, especially related to court availability conflicts.

The President then awarded the masters league trophy to Ridgefield A.C., winner of 50+ division 1, and to Tokeneke, winner of 60+. He proposed the admission of Silver Spring & Roxbury as new masters division 50+ teams, which was approved by floor vote, and reported that Woodway & Fairfield Hunt Club have dropped their masters division teams.

Brian Skinner, representing the grievance committee, addressed the importance of following the rules of fair play and sportsmanship, in particular, those relating to stacking. He read excerpts from a letter, without naming the offending or offended club, containing a sanction and penalty that was sent in response to a stacking grievance that was filed and addressed by the grievance committee last season hoping this will reinforce the importance of adherence to our rules.

Ed then reported that matches should no longer be postponed due to heat, which was allowed last year. Our league is a summer league, it's sometimes very hot, but the matches should be played. Roy mentioned that by our 6pm start it usually begins to cool off.

Keith reported on a change to the USTA rules regarding a let if a call has been corrected. A let is no longer to be played. The corrected call stands. Keith pointed out that we follow the USTA rules for play and conduct and they are available through our web site.

Ed then reported on a letter the board received from a member club requesting a rule change to allow full dues paying members to participate in the league if they are teaching pros. There was much discussion on this with apparently overwhelming support for making the change to allow pros to play for a club, other than the club where they are the pro, if they are a full dues paying member. There was no vote on the matter, as the board wants to discuss the matter in more detail, consider any implications of making the change and will propose the change, if appropriate, for next year.

Shelly then reported on match start times, noting that there have been several conflicts when teams on a lower court are ready to start their match but a player on a higher court has not arrived yet. Shelly indicated that the problem is that if that player on the higher court does not arrive then the players scheduled to play on the lower courts should move up and the lowest court should be defaulted.

To alleviate the conflicts in this regard and to start matches as early as possible to avoid their not finishing due to loss of daylight, the board is recommending that matches can start when the 4 players on a particular court are ready to play. However, if a missing player who is apparently on the way does not arrive, that match will be defaulted, and the matches on the courts below the missing player's court will be forfeited. An example was given where courts 1, 3 & 4 players are ready to start. Court 2 is missing a player who the captain says is on the way. Courts 1, 3 & 4 start their match. Court 2 player doesn't show. Court 1 results stand, court 2 is defaulted & courts 3 & 4 are forfeited. The reason being that if the court 2 player was known to not be coming then players from courts 3 & 4 would have moved up and court 4 would have been defaulted.

Shelly noted that this, and other questions, is addressed more completely in a FAQ on the web site. He also noted that this has nothing to do with the existing rule for forfeiting a set and/or match on a court if play does not start by the prescribed time, i.e. 6:30 or 6:45.

Shelly then announced that in an attempt to get a better handle on perceived stacking or actual stacking, and to try to better adhere to the concept of "best against best", every team will now designate players in order of their perceived skill. Also, if there is a junior on a team he should also be designated, if he's among the best players and ranked. So, there could be an additional designated player for every junior and it might be that a club will have 9, or more, designated players. All players on a club roster will be ranked but only 8 plus any juniors need to be designated for each team.

Bill Marshall announced that all player info will be added to the roster so we can have full names. Then captains can use the drop down list to pick the players that played and record the scores. If a player's info is not on the roster they will not be able to have a score reported. They will have to be added to the roster first, which any captain can do. If a player is to be added to the roster as a designated player, after the beginning of the season, then that will have to be done by the division secretary.

There being no other matters brought before the meeting, it was adjourned at 8:46 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Frank
Secretary