

FAIRFIELD COUNTY TENNIS LEAGUE
Minutes of Annual Meeting
March 31, 2010

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 45th year.

Art Goldblatt, on behalf of Matt Fraenza, Assistant Marketing director for the Pilot Pen Tournament, addressed the meeting and stated that the Pilot Pen tournament, to be played in August, will offer the opportunity to see many outstanding men and women Tour players.

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 2009 Annual Meeting were approved.

Brian Skinner presented the Treasurer's report indicating a cash balance of \$11,902.22 as of December 31, 2009. He recommended that dues remain at the same level as last year, \$35/ team. The Treasurer's report and recommendation was adopted unanimously.

Ed then announced that Art Goldblatt has resigned from the Board, thanking him for his untiring years of service to FCTL and noting that he is irreplaceable and will be missed. Ed also indicated that while Art has resigned from the Board he is to be an honorary Board member for life.

Roy then thanked Art for his 37 years of service to the FCTL during which time, among other things, he served as President, Secretary, scheduling secretary, and grievance committee chairman. Roy also mentioned that Art is the founder of the Norwalk Grassroots tennis program. He noted that during the time Art has been involved with FCTL he has earned the great respect and affection of everyone he dealt with, and that no Board member had served as long or as well as he and thanked him for his exceptional good judgment and sound advice. Roy presented Art with a certificate for dinner for 2 along with tickets to the 2010 US Open. Art received a standing ovation and thanked the league for giving him the opportunity to serve.

Roy presented the recommendations of the Nominating Committee for Directors as follows: Roy Anderson, Wisner Brown, Shelly Frank, Casey Jones, Bill Marshall, Jim Parsons, Keith Rudolph, Brian Skinner and Ed Weiss. The Committee's nominations were unanimously approved. The nominations of the Committee for officers were also presented and unanimously approved. They are Ed Weiss, President; Roy Anderson, Vice-President & Master's League Secretary; Brian Skinner, Treasurer; Keith Rudolph, Scheduling Secretary; Shelly Frank, League Secretary. Further approved was the Nominating Committee for 2010-2011 comprising Roy Anderson, Brian Skinner, & Casey Jones.

President, Ed Weiss announced that the starting date for League play this year will be May 19th. The scheduled finishing date is July 28th. He announced the winners of the 2009 Alex Reddin

Tournament, and that the 2010 tournament will be held at the Lake Club again on September 11th. He thanked the Lake Club for hosting our season's end tournament.

The President awarded the League trophy to Easton Racquet Club as winner of Division 1 of the Open League. He announced the other final standings for the 2009 season and proposed the admission of an Aspetuck 3 team in division IV East. Aspetuck 3 was unanimously admitted. Ed then noted that, to allow time to prepare the division lineup and schedules, new teams wishing to join the league should submit their request no later than a date that will be determined by the Board and posted on the web site. He noted that the schedule for this year which will shortly be posted on the web site may change due to a team that dropped out after the 2010 division line ups and schedules were completed.

Bill Marshall, website chairman, indicated that the schedule should be available online at the conclusion of the meeting and reiterated that it should be checked prior to the start of the season.

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 a letter, without naming the offending or offended clubs, 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 attention issues, such as these, receive.

Ed awarded the Master's League trophy to Ridgefield Athletic Club, the winner for the 6th consecutive year of 50+ Division 1 in the Master's League, and also presented Belle Haven with the trophy for winning the 60+ Division. He then announced the final standings by divisions for the 2009 season.

Ed then addressed the division alignments for 2010, noting several changes that have been made to facilitate improved competition and balance within divisions and regions. Lengthy discussion from the floor followed the introduction of the 2010 division/region alignments with objections including, the geographic inconvenience, disappointment from not moving up after winning the division last year, the difficulty of bringing the best players out again this year when there was no benefit from doing so last year, having to compete again in a weaker division after winning that division last year, disappointment that the change was not put to a vote of all clubs, that it was not announced as a change to be implemented next year to give clubs advanced notice, and that the poll taken several years ago that suggested that geography was more important than competitiveness in the lower divisions was apparently not considered. Various suggestions from the floor were suggested including, dividing Division 1 into two regions and having a playoff for the league championship, have two regions in division two, make no changes, and defer the changes until next year. More discussion followed and it was pointed out that the discrepancy between the top and bottom teams in certain divisions suggests that it can't be fun or competitive for many of those teams. It was also pointed out that the poll taken a few years ago was not definitive in suggesting that geography should trump competition. Some Captains stated that even in their divisions, i.e. below division 1 or 2, they are interested in playing competitive, evenly matched opponents even if it means extra travel time. Ed indicated repeatedly that the changes were not arrived at without lengthy discussion and detailed analysis at the Board level and the conclusion was that this new alignment was the best way to proceed, that it had minimal geographical implications that were taken into account during the scheduling process and that the league is a competitive league in all divisions and the board wanted to maintain the competitive aspect of interclub tennis in each division and region. He acknowledged that some teams may perceive some inconvenience, but that the changes were considered to be the best for a majority of the league's participants. He further indicated that the board will consider each objection, comment and suggestion at a special Board

meeting to be held prior to this season's start and if any changes are deemed appropriate they will be implemented, if feasible, for the 2010 season. By an informal show of hands, of the 45 clubs represented at the meeting, 6 indicated they felt the change should have been deferred to 2011. Of the 45 in attendance, 14 raised their hands when asked if they thought the change was good, and 31 raised their hands when asked if they thought it was appropriate for the Board to make the changes after the Board completed its analysis and conclusion without first giving notice to the clubs.

Bill Marshall, pointed out the changes made to the website and its procedures, including that results for all matches in every division are required to be entered, there are roster drop down lists that will allow easy entry of players scheduled for matches, and printable score sheets and schedules. There is also a provision in team rosters for the entry of e-mail addresses and cell phone numbers to facilitate notice to those scheduled for a particular match of notice of delays, cancellations, etc.

There was short discussion concerning assessment of penalties for late score reporting and it was noted that while no division secretary present had assessed a penalty in this regard, it is important to adhere to the, by noon next day reporting time, and that a penalty can be assessed if circumstances suggest a disregard for the rule.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Frank
Secretary