

FAIRFIELD COUNTY TENNIS LEAGUE
Minutes of Annual Meeting
April 6, 2017

President Keith Rudolph called the meeting to order at 7:17 PM at Woodway Country Club, Darien. He thanked the Woodway Club for giving FCTL the use of a meeting room and Chuck Milot for arranging the meeting venue. President Rudolph remarked that it was great to have such a large turnout and noted that it's good to also have so many first time attendees at this year's meeting, to kick off FCTL's 52nd season.

President Rudolph paused the meeting for a few minutes to allow those present to review the minutes of the 2016 annual meeting which were available as a hand out to all in attendance. He then asked for a motion and second from the floor to approve the minutes. The 2016 minutes were approved by vote of those present.

Roy Anderson, as chairman of the Nominating Committee, took the podium and reported that the nominating committee met and recommends the 2016 officers and directors continue in their roles for 2017 with the exception of nominating Vince Pisano of Rowayton to the board. A motion was introduced, voted on & passed approving the officers, directors and new board member.

Roy then spoke about the Play In May event taking place on May 6 with proceeds going to the Norwalk Grass Roots program, which provides underprivileged children opportunities they would otherwise not have, even providing some the opportunity to attend college. He mentioned that the Play In May tournament is a major part of the Grass Roots funding source and encouraged FCTL members to participate. He also mentioned a pro-am tournament to be held at Chelsea Piers which will also benefit the program.

Brian Skinner was introduced and presented the Treasurer's report indicating that the financial statement is available as a handout to those present. He then indicated that the dues will remain at \$50/team and emphasized that the responsibility for making sure dues are paid on a timely basis rests with the Captain of a club's highest division team in the league and should be paid before the season starts. He reported that the fine for late dues is \$30 per month per team and asked that everyone make a diligent effort to insure their dues are paid on time. The form for paying dues is available on the web site.

Keith asked if any clubs will not have their courts ready by our 5/10 start date and we were informed that Redding will only have two courts until 5/31. He reported that the board determined the start and end dates will to be 5/10 & 11 start and 7/26 & 27 end with no play scheduled the w/o July 4th, allowing that week to be used for make-up matches as has been the practice in recent years. He also noted that while the schedule has not been completed yet, the 60's league will probably start a week later than the open & 50's leagues.

Keith then announced that the 2016 Alex Reddin Tournament will be played on 5/13, the weekend after our season begins, remarking that holding the event after the season began worked out well last year. He then asked if Woodway C.C., Country Club of New Canaan and Lake Club will host the tournament.

Keith congratulated the overall league champion, division 1 which was Fairfield Beach Club and presented Chuck Milot with the trophy and a plaque memorializing their win. Roy & Keith then announced the winners of each division and presented plaques to each division winning representative present.

Keith commented that the schedules have not been posted on the web site yet, as he has not finalized them due to the large number of new team requests and several dropped teams. He also noted that there will be some realignment of division lineups. He further informed the league that Ridgefield Club at Four Seasons is no longer a club playing out of Four Seasons as they have been merged into the other Four Seasons teams. Keith suggested that everyone refer to the division line up handout which indicates the anticipated division alignments for 2017.

Brian then reported on behalf of the grievance committee that there were several grievances last year but the committee does have the additional information available to all on the web site where all players are supposed to be ranked and their record in past matches is available, so grievances can be evaluated more completely, although the process takes a tremendous amount of time and analysis. He also noted that where a team was found to violate the rule of playing their players in descending order of team strength, points have been deducted and he emphasized the importance of avoiding stacking which is now more discernable than has been the case in the past. He also stated that the board is taking a more aggressive stance with regard to stacking in an attempt to curtail or eliminate complaints in that regard, and has considered more punitive measures against offenders, which may include suspending a captain, a team or a club depending on the egregious nature of the violation. He reiterated that the best pair of players should be on the courts in descending order emphasizing that the 2 players on court two should not be better than the players on court one and the players on court 1 of a club's other team in the league should not be better than the players on any court in a division above the division those players played in.

Keith then advised each captain to read the captain's instructions which are posted on the web site along with an FAQ section. He also reviewed the process for registering as a captain. He then reiterated the need to rank all players including juniors and went through the designated player rule indicating that 8 players from each team, other than the lowest division team should be designated. Where there are also juniors that would be amongst the top 8 players on a team, they too should be designated, increasing the number of designated players by the number of designated juniors on that team. He pointed out that a new roster system is being incorporated into the players section of the web site but will not be active until 5/1, so Captains should wait until 5/1 to modify rosters and designated players.

Keith then pointed out that if a default is necessary it should be by the lowest division team and players have to be moved up to other teams regardless of what division team they have been playing on. There will be a default to the team not moving their player up to fill a court on a higher division team and a default on the court that was defaulted as well as a penalty point to the higher division team. He also asked the host captain to always contact the visiting team captain a day or so prior to the match to confirm the match and go over any questions.

Keith made an appeal to the Captain's, pros and tennis chairs of any club with strict dress code rules relating to all white tennis shoes to request an exception for FCTL matches, noting that it is increasingly difficult to find all white tennis shoes in certain sizes and it is an unfair hardship to ask players on a visiting team to buy shoes that might only be used for one match per season.

The meeting was then opened to the floor for any questions or discussion.

There being no other matters brought before the meeting, it was adjourned at 8:14 PM.

By: Shelly Frank
Secretary