

**CSRA WOMEN'S TENNIS LEAGUE
MINUTES FOR JANUARY 3, 2007 MEETING**

INTRODUCTION

President Sheryl Grainger called the meeting to order and introduced the Board:

Ann Bowman Vice President
Susan Thomas A and C Divisions Secretary
Debbie Tam B Division Secretary
Rita Greenquist Past President

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Susan Thomas read an abbreviated version of the minutes from the last meeting. The complete minutes were handed out to members as they came in. The minutes were approved as submitted.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Susan Odum presented the Treasurer's Report. The League currently has \$5391.48 in our account. The Treasurer's Report was approved as submitted.

OLD BUSINESS

Awards

Sheryl Grainger and Ann Bowman presented awards for the Fall 2006 season.

Winners:

A Division Petersburg Racquet Club (Green)
B Division Augusta Country Club
C Division Augusta Country Club

Finalists:

A Division Petersburg Racquet Club (Yellow)
B Division Odell Weeks Tennis Center (Navy)
C Division Petersburg Racquet Club

\$25,000 Pro Challenger Event

Sheryl reported on the excellent showing for the CSRAWTL Day at the Pro Challenger Event at Rae's Creek. Special thanks were extended to Sandra Blanchard for her hard work. Rita Greenquist shared some of her experiences including the fun she had hosting several of the players and their parents. She encouraged others to host next year.

Rotating Clubs for Officers

A suggestion was made at the August 2, 2006 meeting to look into possibly rotating the responsibility for providing officers between the member clubs. Sheryl has asked Paulette Welsh to assist in gathering information on this issue. Paulette's golf league has an

arrangement like this. A motion was made to again table this issue until more information is available.

The motion was approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Season Schedules

Sheryl presented the Spring 2007 schedules for approval. These are the same schedules that were provided to the captains in advance of the meeting for review. No changes were requested and the schedules were approved as presented.

By-Law Changes

Sheryl presented the following proposed change to the By-Laws:

Proposed Change: IX. Rules of Order “The rules contained in the current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order shall govern the CSRA Women’s Tennis League in all cases that are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order the CSRA Women’s Tennis League may adopt.”

Sheryl explained that this change is needed to help streamline meetings and to provide a logistical framework for the organization and meetings where none exists. A motion was made to approve this By-Law change and seconded.

The change was approved unanimously.

Updated By-Laws will be available on the website later today.

Clarifications of By-Laws

a. Sheryl explained that the Board received numerous complaints last season about players with a USTA ranking of 3.5 dominating C Division matches and 4.0 players dominating B Division matches. Two By-Laws already address these complaints:

V.D. Captains and/or Club Pros must determine line-ups according to strength of players in order to make fair and competitive play for all. Sandbagging, scheduling stronger pairs below weaker pairs, is prohibited. A player must stay within a three-slot range. All six/five positions will be forfeited if an infraction of these rules occurs.

And,

VI.R. We strongly encourage (that) all NTRP 4.0 players and higher members play A Division; 3.5 play either B or A Division; 3.0 and 2.5 play either C or B Division. If there is no existing A Division or B Division, then those members who are rated 4.0 can play on B, and 3.5 can play on C. Anyone not rated must play according to their ability.

Note: These by-Laws were not read during the meeting but were referenced in the agenda. They are included here for your information.

Susan Thomas read the following clarification of the Board's interpretation of these By-Laws:

"Captains will be required to indicate on their roster any B players that have a NTRP rating of 4.0 or higher, or any C players that have a ranking of 3.5 or higher. These players must play above all other team members in any given match, ie, play in the highest available slot."

Sheryl explained that this clarification is the Board's attempt to respond to perceived sandbagging. In response to questions from the floor she further explained that we cannot make a player move to a higher division, we can only encourage it. Sheryl has talked to some of the players involved or their captains, and some players do not even have a higher team at their facility to move to. Ann Harley pointed out that NTRP ratings are not consistent and that some players do not even have a rating. However, it was also noted that this is a social league and players are looking for fun, competitive matches. A request was made from the floor that the A Division also be included in the clarification. A motion was made to accept the clarification including the A division, it was seconded, and a vote was taken.

The measure passed by 7 to 2.

More discussion followed. Pat Hall explained that her team is made up of 4.5 and 4.0 players. The 4.5's rarely play together at the top due to compatibility issues. She said that her team would likely not be able to play under this interpretation of the By-Laws. Marsha Mikes made a motion to remove the A Division from the clarification. The motion was seconded. Only clubs with A teams were allowed to vote on this issue. The vote was tied at three. The president was required to break the tie. Sheryl explained that as she had not received any complaints from the A Division, she would vote to exclude the A Division from the clarification.

The motion passed 4-3 and the clarification stands as given above.

b. No Show Rule - Reference: By-Law reads, "VI. P. A fifteen minute default rule is in effect. If someone is more than 15 minutes late, her match will be defaulted, unless players have contacted the captains and made other arrangements. Both players and captains must agree."

Note: Again, the above By-Law was not read, but is included for your information.

Sheryl reminded captains that all forfeits should be from the bottom of the line-up. For example, if a player scheduled to play in the fourth position does not show up on time, her team will forfeit the number six position and available players will be used to fill

positions four and five. Therefore, it is very important that play not begin on any court until the players on the courts above them are present. If both captains and the players on the court in question agree to wait for a late player, play can begin on other courts; this assumes, of course, that the player's captain has verbal confirmation that she is on her way.

c. Team Forfeits - If it becomes apparent that you will have to forfeit more than 3 positions during any given match, call the President as soon as you are aware of the problem. Sheryl explained that she may be able to assist you in rescheduling the match for an appropriate reason. Examples of this situation might be a school holiday or state tournament that was not considered in the scheduling. Our goal is always to play and Sheryl will try to help you work this out.

d. Home Team contacts Visiting team - Sheryl reminded all captains that it is the home team captain's responsibility to contact the visiting captain 48 hours before a match. At this time, you should inform the other captain as to how many teams you will be fielding and whether you will be serving lunch or refreshments. If either captain is waiting for confirmation from one or more players, inform the other captain at this time.

Season Ending Gifts

Season ending gifts were distributed in the fall. Any team captains that did not receive enough gifts were asked to see Sheryl after the meeting.

USTA Official Rules

Any new captains that do not have the USTA Official Rules of Tennis were asked to see Sheryl after the meeting to receive a copy of the 2006 rules. Sheryl will review the 2007 rules to determine if there are any significant rule changes. Copies will be ordered for all captains if needed.

Spring Tournament

The Spring tournament will be held at Odell Weeks and week of May 7-10, 2007.

REMINDERS

Sheryl issued the following reminders:

Packets with the League Directory, etc will be delivered to clubs January 6.

Read your e-mail in a timely manner. This is how we communicate with captains.

We cannot make phone calls to each captain. Secretaries will communicate any roster or scorecard problems via e-mail.

Scorecards may be submitted via the website. You still must mail in rosters and dues! Please use the color-coded address labels that are included in your package.

You may include all members of your team on your initial roster if this is easier for you. This option is offered as a convenience to captains. You do not have to include all players

on the first roster as we do not intend to give refunds if a player does not actually play. We will, however, consider special circumstances.

ADJOURNED

Submitted by: Susan Thomas