

CSRA WOMEN'S TENNIS LEAGUE
CAPTAIN'S MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 8, 2007

INTRODUCTION

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

Ann Bowman	Vice-President
Susan Thomas	A and C Division Secretary
Susan Odum	Treasurer
Debbie Tam	B Division Secretary (Absent)
Rita Greenquist	Past President

Sheryl then introduced Mae Beth Thompson who has accepted appointment to the position of Parliamentarian.

Sheryl explained that all documents that captains will need for the coming season are in the captains' packets that were given out upon arrival. The League Directory was passed around for corrections. Any corrections will be e-mailed.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Susan Thomas delivered an abbreviated version of the minutes from the January 3, 2007 meeting. Susan noted that copies of the minutes in captains' packets were missing several paragraphs. A corrected copy of the January 3, 2007 minutes will be posted on the website. Minutes were approved with noted corrections.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Susan Odum presented the Treasurer's Report. She noted that the league took in approximately as much money as was expended during the past season. The current balance is \$5423.31. The Treasurer's Report was approved and filed for audit.

AWARDS

Ann Bowman presented awards to the Spring 2007 winners and finalists. Errors were made on the engraving for the C Division. Ann will get correct awards to those teams.

A Division Winner	Augusta Country Club
B Division Winner	Petersburg Racquet Club (White)

C Division Winner	Augusta Country Club
A Division Finalist	Petersburg Racquet Club (Green)
B Division Finalist	Fermata
C Division Finalist	Odell Weeks Tennis Center (Blue)

CSRA WTL TOURNAMENT

Sheryl reported that Spring 2007 Tournament was a huge success. One hundred twenty-four women participated. Unfortunately, approximately 10 ladies were from Augusta. Sheryl encouraged women to come join the fun next time. Sheryl thanked Marilyn Hofstetter who chaired the event for all of the hard work put in by the ladies of Odell Weeks Tennis Center. Susan Odum mentioned that she thought it was the best CSRA tournament yet. Sheryl pointed out that winners were posted on the bulletin board and photos are posted on the website.

SPRING DONATIONS

Sheryl reported that the league made contributions to two local organizations that support tennis in our area. Teens Teach Tennis was given \$500. These high school students teach tennis to underprivileged children in Aiken and North Augusta. MACH Academy was also given \$500. The Academy uses tennis as an introduction excellence in academics and life skills. They serve underprivileged children in Aiken and Augusta. Sheryl asked that you let her know if there are other organizations that we should consider for donations.

OLD BUSINESS

Rotating Clubs for Officers

Ann Bowman explained that some golf leagues rotate the responsibility for providing a slate of officers between the member clubs. Rita Greenquist, Past President, said that near the end of her term she specifically requested help in identifying candidates from some of the Augusta clubs. She believes that they tried to help, but it proved very difficult to get ladies to commit to serving on the Board. Cathy Cruse, also a Past President, said that she thought if clubs knew in advance that it would be their responsibility to identify candidates, they would be prepared, just as clubs are prepared when it is their turn to host the CSRA WTL tournament. Cathy made the following motion:

Clubs will provide a representative to serve on the league nominating committee based on an established rotating schedule. The current Vice-President will chair this committee to develop a slate of officers for the coming year.

The motion was seconded. Following a brief discussion the question was called.

The motion passed unanimously.

Clarification of Sandbagging Rule

Sheryl reminded captains that last season, NTRP ratings were used in the B and C Divisions to identify top players in an effort to reduce sandbagging. Sheryl reported that she received just as many complaints as before. Captains complained that using NTRP ratings made it difficult to follow the 3-slot Rule, that NTRP ratings are not always accurate for players returning from injury and that emphasis on NTRP ratings detracts from our being a "Social League." Sheryl explained that based on this experience, captains will no longer be required to show NTRP ratings or to use NTRP ratings on their line-ups. Sheryl pointed out that captains still have to abide by the current by-law which states that stronger pairs must be played above weaker pairs (V. CAPTAINS, D. pg 3). Sheryl suggested that captains file a protest if they feel a sandbagging violation has occurred and the Grievance Committee will use available data to investigate.

No action was required on this item, however there was a brief discussion. Captains pointed out that the Self-rating system used by the USTA made NTRP ratings unreliable and that captains and their club professionals were better judges of their teams strengths.

NEW BUSINESS

Season Schedules

Sheryl presented the Fall 2007 schedules for approval. All schedules were approved unanimously. Sheryl asked that captains be sure to use the versions in their packets and not earlier versions that were distributed for review via the internet. Sheryl also asked that captains attempt to use school holidays and the week of the Pro Tournament to schedule make-ups if necessary. Also, clinic days may be a good possibility.

Playing Five Positions in the A Division

A request was made to the Board that the league consider playing 5 positions instead of six in the A Division. Sheryl offered the following statistics. The A Division played a total of 42 matches, which would be 252 individual positions, with only 12 forfeits or 4% of the matches. The question put before the membership was, "Shall the A Division matches consist of five positions?"

The question failed by a vote of 6 to 1. The A Division shall continue to play 6 positions.

Playing Five Positions in the B Division

A request was made to the Board that the league consider playing 5 positions instead of six in the B Division. Sheryl offered the following statistics. The B Division played a total of 66 matches, which would be 396 individual positions, with only 8 forfeits or 2% of the matches. The question put before the membership was, "Shall the B Division matches consist of five positions?"

The question failed unanimously. The B Division shall continue to play 6 positions.

Playing Six Positions in the C Division

A request was made to the Board that the league consider playing 6 positions instead of 5 in the C Division. Sheryl offered the following statistics. The C Division played a total of 45 matches, which would be 225 individual positions, with 19 forfeits or 8% of the matches. Sheryl pointed out that the C Division had the highest forfeit rate and may not be ready for six positions. The question put before the membership was, "Shall the C Division matches consist of six positions?"

The question failed unanimously. The C Division shall continue to play 5 positions.

REMINDERS

Sheryl issued the following reminders:

3 Slot Rule Exemption – Please call your League Secretary before using your one 3-Slot exemption (if possible). Your secretary should be able to help you make sure that you are using the exemption correctly. You can still use your exemption even if you can't reach your secretary, but Sheryl encouraged captains to maintain their tracking sheets and keep them in their tennis bags to help avoid 3-Slot rule violations and/or misuse of the exemption, as this may cause your team to lose all 6/5 positions.

Captain's Packets – Sheryl pointed out that the captains' packets contain everything you will need this season. You may print a copy of the current By-Laws from the website. We're trying to reduce printing costs and save a few trees, as some of the captains already have a current copy of the By-Laws.

Scorecards – As before, scorecards may be e-mailed to your secretary, posted on the website (www.csrawtl.com) or mailed to the P.O. Box using address labels in your packets.

Rosters – Captains may include as many players as they would like on their initial roster to avoid sending in additional rosters and checks later. In response to a question, Sheryl explained that captains would be responsible for keeping track of whether all of those players actually played as the season progressed. If someone is on the roster, but does not play by the end of the season, that player can request a refund of her \$10. Susan Odum said that this is a very rare occurrence.

E-mail Communications - Sheryl reminded captains to read their e-mails in a timely manner as this is the Board's primary method of communicating with captains. A captain from the floor requested that Secretaries include their co-captains in communications. It is also the responsibility of the captains to provide an updated e-mail if it changes during the season.

New Captains Meeting - Sheryl encouraged new captains to stay for an information session with Susan Thomas following the meeting to receive more information on rosters, scorecards, etc.

Squash and Tennis Shop - Sheryl asked captains to be sure to sign the attendance sheet, as all members attending the meeting would receive a coupon from the Aiken Tennis and Squash Shop.

The Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by, Susan Thomas

