



GCTA Quarterly Meeting

January 16th, 2014

Convened at 7:05 p.m. by Phil Diaz

Board Members Attending:

Ed Amos	Terry Finneran	Terri Jones	Brittany Rings	Emi Tsuda
Geogg Bibo	Scott Gerber	Paul Kobelt	Geri Schlegel	
Phil Diaz	Art Haus	Erin Ortman	Jim Scowden	
Fred Duy	Jim Hendrix	Shelby Rhyne	Mike Toomey	

Guests:

Jacqueline Boggs	Tyler Stephen	Arnie Jones
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September Meeting Minutes

- Changes to be posted to the umpire section of the September meeting minutes. (Umpires to officiate the High School team tennis tournament, Oct 20 at Reynoldsburg. With those corrections, Shelby motioned and Terry Finneran seconded.

2014 GCTA Board Meetings,

Thursdays

April 17th

July 17th

September 18th

Treasurer's Report - Shirley Neibauer / Terri Jones reporting

Money Market	-	\$ 48,609.51
Checking	-	<u>\$ 16,987.62</u>
Total	-	\$ 65,597.13

Grant Committee – Jane McMeekin / Terri Jones reporting

- Two grants were awarded since the last meeting.
 - Take Tennis to the Neighborhood - a grant intended to support the Columbus City Schools teams by providing weekly clinics in the summer at Woodward Park and Schiller Park Rec Centers.

Olympic High School Clinics & Champions Summer Camps - also intended to support the Columbus City Schools teams by providing clinics during the winter at Olympic and then a summer camp at The Champions Tennis Club.

Website – Scott Gerber

- Website usage drops off dramatically in August and picks back up in May. We've had 34,000 page users, and 6000 unique users. Over 16,000 visits. More Jr. photos were just added as well as numerous photos from the Diaz Annual Pancreatic Cancer tournament.

Awards Ceremony – Shelby Rhyne

- The 2013 ceremony went very well. Shelby used the LCD projector so the board could view photos from the evening. Please look for awards nominees all year long.
- Mark your calendars for the 2014 awards ceremony held at the Everal Barn on Thursday, September 25th.

Women's League – Erin Ortman

- All GCTA board members are to receive a green umbrella from the Men's and Women's board.
- Winter parties will be Jan 25 at the Racquet club from 6-10 and February 8th at Scarborough East from 6-10. Evening to include round robin tennis, snacks and prizes. If anyone wants to volunteer for either evening, please let Erin know.
- There was no October Women's club rep meeting due to the lack of submitted discussion items.
- Tenniscores website changed their home page, but it still has the same content.

Men's League – Terry Finneran

- Men's board met Dec 16 to go over rules changes. There were 3 minor changes that are noted in red on the rules found on the tenniscores.com website.
- All fees from 2013 have been collected thanks to Rob Hildreth. Still looking for a membership chair to replace Rob Hildreth.
- Terry added that he has had a difficult time reaching website owner, Nancy Biggs.
- There was also a discussion of changing the men's league rules that would allow 18 year olds to play in the league to increase participation. A report will be given at the April meeting with pros and cons to the change.
- Scott Gerber will use his HS coach's site to help promote men's leagues. Also reach out to the Ohio Tennis Coaches Association for marketing efforts.

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USTA Leagues – Shelby Rhyne

- 2014 will not see any adult changes, still fielding combo, mixed and adult leagues.
- 300 players in 2013. Had 60 players each in the two flex league seasons,

Columbus Recreation & Parks – Denica Bruce/Terri Jones Reporting

- Denica reported that the planning process has begun. Here is a summary of what is planned.
 - Youth:
 - Camps will be held June 9-10 and July 7-11 at Whetstone Park.
 - Lessons:
 - Denica is changing the format for the weekly lessons. She is trying to avoid kids missing lessons due to vacations or other family happenings by offering mini-camps each week. Parents will be able to register for a week of 4-lessons instead of one lesson per week for 5-weeks. EX. 3-5yr olds would meet M-Th from 9:15am-10:00am for one week. (The same for each age group.) Exception would be our NJTL program and they will continue with weekly lessons and match play. Parents would be able to register for more than one week—in turn each child would receive more than 5 lessons this summer.
 - Midwest Youth Team Tennis :
 - Will be conducted on Wednesday evenings again at Whetstone.
 - We are conducting the future program as well.
 - Adult Start/Restart:
 - Denica will be conducting a late spring, an early summer and two fall sessions this year. It's been a great success. We have many returnees which now require us to be a little creative on our lesson plans. The USTA office contacted Denica to gather information on an article for the NRPA magazine. The article was inquiring on our use of the MYTT format with the adults. Thanks Jim Amick for the support and sending them our way. It's been a great program for us...lots of laughter and lots of tennis.
 - Flex League:
 - Denica would like to try it again. We have a larger database of players associated with Start/Restart. Some of those players are interested.
 - Adult lessons:
 - Terry Gee—lessons will be conducted April –October. 7-week sessions at Whetstone, Schiller and Antrim.
 - Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced programs for ages 17-adults
Participation has increased over the last two years.
 - Issues:
 - Whetstone tennis courts will be undergoing renovation work this summer. Unfortunately, they have decided the best time for them is during our busiest times—July-August. Five courts will be completed first, then the remaining six. Program use will be extremely limited. Terry and I have adjusted some of our programs to meet the construction timelines.
 - Denica is looking for instructors. Prefer college level player, but other experience is definitely considered. If you know of someone, please have them contact Denica at debruce@columbus.gov or 614-645-3264...leave a message.
 - Thanks so much for the GCTA support. I cannot express this enough.

USTA Junior Team Tennis – Brittany Rings

- JTT league will start June 6th with a 6 week JTT program. Same format. Instead of a mandatory coaches meeting, we will offer 2 different times for a mandatory coaches call. We will also offer registration days for the larger clubs so there aren't as many ineligible players at the beginning of the season. Background checks are mandatory for all coaches, will be an on-line process and will be of no charge to the coaches.

Umpires – Art Haus

- Umpire training will take place on April 5th at the Racquet Club. A lengthy discussion was held again about the lack of junior tournaments in Columbus. The clubs that were present offered reasons of why they don't bid on the Midwest Junior tournaments. Either space, parent/player attitudes or the lack of revenue generated were the given reasons. Phil Diaz is going to reach out to Michael Hughes at the Midwest office for some direction.

10 & Under Initiative – Erin Ortman & Jacqueline Boggs

- Erin continues to work with the Hilliard Schools system for a PE teacher retraining. Also, gearing up for Midwest YTT this summer.
- Jacqueline has been retained by the GCTA to run red and orange ball tournaments around the city. We had 15 entrants for our first event and 24 for our second event. We have business cards magnets with the

Winter circuit dates to distribute to clubs and kids at the events. The more tournaments you play, the more goodies you get. These events are being marketed to all YTT kids.

- The remaining circuit dates are the following from 6-9 Pm
 - Feb 22 at Players Club
 - March 15 at Olympic
 - April 12 at Olympic
 - August 9 at Olympic
 - Sept 20 Whetstone Park
 - Oct 11 at Scarborough
 - Nov 22 at Scarborough

Executive Director's Report – Terri Jones

2 ½ year 10 and Under Recap

- School trainings are complete: 17 school districts with 10 and under tennis in their PE curriculum. We have reached 210 school buildings reaching over 75,000 youth.
- We had 127 Play days reaching approximately 3400 kids.
- We have installed blended lines on 165 courts around Columbus. This includes 36 and 60 foot courts
- YTT markets include:
 - Worthington, Westerville, Hilliard, Dublin, *Gahanna, *Delaware, Cols. Rec & Parks, Southwest, Canal Winchester and Pickerington. *New markets
- Youth Team Tennis Summit on Saturday, March 8th here in Columbus for anyone running a market.
- The GCTA helped sponsor Leah Friedman, a National trainer for 10U tennis, for a 3 day workshop in November at Wickertree.
- We had 37 participants for the OB Workshop
- 25 participants at the Buddy Up Workshop
- 15 for the USPTR orange ball certification (which was at capacity)
- Terri distributed a one page, easy to understand, flyer explaining earned advancement. The grandfathered players list came out last week and is on the Midwest's website.
- Midwest Section continues to offer \$100 for an orange or red ball tournament with a minimum of 8 participants. And \$50 for a play day with 20 registered kids.
- The Midwest Section's new president Vi Clark has brought new challenges to all of us to grow the game. Her philosophy is not to conduct business as usual because it is not a winning strategy and simply not working. She is reaching out to diverse tennis players, especially African-American, Asian-American, Hispanic and the LGBT communities. She is committed to change and wants to make tennis make a difference for everyone. She is more interested in participation numbers rather than membership numbers.
- Erin and Terri will be serving on the Midwest schools committee. Beth Gibson is serving on the Adaptive Committee. We all attended the Midwest Annual meeting in Chicago where Billy Jean King and Jon Vegosen were the 2013 Hall of Fame Inductees.
- Terri shared some of the Midwest Youth Tennis & Education Foundation Charity Gala programs and paper clipped the GCTA advertisement that appeared in the program.
- Our liability insurance has been renewed for 2014.
- After a short discussion of the Upper Arlington meeting facilities took place: Although the room is not an ideal set up, the group decided it is a much better meeting location. We will secure our other meeting dates.
- The Champions Tennis Club was re-named the John Campbell Tennis Center last November to honor all the work that John has done to keep the facility opened and in top shape.
- Jacqueline Boggs has been named the Midwest Section's Volunteer of the Month for January for all of her hard work in the Pickerington area.
- OVTA spring meeting in Chillicothe is set for Sunday, March 9th.
- We need volunteers for the Arnold Event in Columbus Feb. 28 – March 2. We are showcasing tennis at the event. Times to volunteer are Friday from 10 – 1 or 1 – 4. Saturday, same times. Sunday 10 – 3. Registration can be found at www.midwest.usta.com/arnoldtennis. Our room will be set up with 2 cardio tennis courts with demonstrations at the top of every hour.
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Old Business

- GCTA boys qualifiers will remain in May. Gabe tried to move the tournament to Feb however, Wickertree and Elysium were not available to make the switch. We are looking for increased participation this year.

New Business

- The group liked the idea of a GCTA window cling for all of our membership for the upcoming summer season. They should be approximately \$600.
- Fed Cup coming to Cleveland on Feb 8 and 9th.

Phil Diaz motioned to adjourn the meeting and Scott Gerber seconded. **The Meeting was adjourned.**