

The National Capital Tennis Association
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2017

October 26th, 2017
Britannia Yacht Club

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:40pm with Phil Johnson, NCTA President, presiding.

AGENDA:

The following was the Agenda adopted for the NCTA AGM 2017:

1. Roll call (Bruce)
2. Distinguished Service Award
3. Approval of minutes of last AGM (Bruce)
4. President's report (Phil)
5. Treasurer's report (Marinus)
6. Capital Kids update (Matt)
7. OTA Update (Matt)
8. Leagues and Tournaments (Theo)
9. City Agreement (Paula & Kelly)
10. Election of Officers (Phil)
11. Any other business (Phil)

ROLL CALL

Bruce Ramsay, NCTA Secretary, undertook a Roll Call.

The following OTA member clubs were in attendance:

- Barrhaven
- Blackburn Hamlet
- Britannia
- Carp
- City View
- Craig Henry
- Elmdale
- Elmridge
- General Burns
- Glen Cairn
- Manotick
- Orleans
- St. James

- Tennis Centre West Ottawa
- OAC
- OTLBC

In addition, the following non-affiliated tennis club was in attendance:

- Crystal Beach
- Valley Stream
- Long Park

With over 30% of the OTA member clubs in attendance, a quorum was declared for the 2017 AGM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST AGM

The minutes for the AGM 2016 had been previously distributed by email. Bruce Ramsay briefly summarized the minutes. Barrhaven tabled a motion to approve the 2016 AGM minutes, seconded by Manotick. Minutes were approved unanimously.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICES AWARD

Margaret Gibson has been selected by OTA for their Distinguished Services Award for 2018. Margaret is the first recipient of the OTA DSA from the NCTA region. Phil Johnson, NCTA President, outlined Margaret's outstanding career in tennis, encompassing playing, coaching, managing and volunteerism. Her commitment to developing juniors of all ability levels for more than 30 years in the Ottawa area was instrumental in her recognition by OTA for the DSA award. Phil presented Margaret with the framed OTA DSA award and a bouquet of flowers on behalf of NCTA.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORTS

*****PLEASE NOTE*****... detailed information on all reports submitted are included in the PowerPoint slides as supplement to these minutes. Only summary information, questions and clarifications are included below.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Phil Johnson reviewed the NCTA 5-year plan, VISION 2014, and related progress towards that vision against progress in 2017. Clubs have been transitioned over to OTA memberships, with NCTA club memberships no longer being offered. Carp TC was added into the NCTA fold this year. In spite of the transition of Rideau Club to a multi-sport facility, it will remain as an OTA club member. DARA and Rockcliffe clubs will likely join NCTA for next year.

Phil pointed to the success of NCTA leagues, tournaments and other programs and to our hosting of the Davis Cup this February as highlights of the past year. Future challenges for NCTA include: completion of the community club agreement with the City of Ottawa, leadership in the

development of additional indoor courts in the region, and stabilization of funding for our junior programs.

Phil concluded by thanking all the coordinators, volunteers, and members of the Board of Directors for making this past year such a success. Additionally, Phil recognized our two sponsors - KUNSTADT SPORTS and BETH EVERSON/ROYAL LEPAGE - for their support to NCTA and the tennis community in the region.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Marinus Wins, NCTA Treasurer, reported that NCTA showed a surplus of \$5,500 in 2016. This was due, in part, to league operations running at a surplus of \$3,000. The league coordinator did not invoice NCTA for time spent organizing leagues.

The forecast for 2017 indicates that NCTA will receive revenues of \$18,000. These revenues include OTA club revenues, sponsorships, leagues, and Capital Kids. Costs will total approximately \$14,100, for a net surplus of \$3,900 in 2017.

OTA REPORT

Matt MacKinnon noted the success of the Capital Kids program, run this summer at 8 court locations with a total participation of 1295 kids. This program has been run in the past with funding from a 3-year Trillium grant, which expired the previous year. This year, Capital Kids was funded from proceeds from our Davis Cup 50-50 draws and some donations. The program will continue next year, but at a lower cost. Grant funding can hopefully be obtained, along with donations and sponsorship money.

Matt responded to a question from the BYC rep that the selection of locations for Capital Kids was indeed based upon proximity to low-income neighbourhoods. The Crystal Beach rep commented that the success of Davis Cup in Ottawa should help any grant submission for continued funding of the program.

Matt then presented statistics from OTA junior competitive tournaments, Little Aces, Little Ace in Schools, and the two Elementary School tournaments. He outlined his vision of a regional junior development pyramid, with competitive tournaments and high performance programs at the top. Feeding into this are Little Aces leagues, school tournaments and junior inter-club leagues. The introductory foundation would include Capital Kids, club and city lessons and camps, school visits and smash cage events.

Matt concluded his report by listing the varied benefits of OTA membership to member club individuals.

TOURNAMENT AND LEAGUE REPORT

Theo Baker-Kretzmar reported that participation was up for the 35/55 and for the 45/65 age category tournaments this summer. The numbers for the Intermediate tournament remained

steady, while the numbers for the City Championships at OTLBC were down. This can be attributed to the fact that the 2015 City tournament registrations were inflated last year by participants in town for the Senior Nationals. It was good to have Rogers TV televise the singles finals, and this is hoped to continue in the future. The number and scope of tournaments will be unchanged this coming year, but Theo is thinking of adding a winter tournament in 2018-19.

Theo assumed responsibility for leagues this fall. Summer leagues completed successfully with playoffs completed in September. There are 114 participants signed up for the singles and team fall leagues. Word of mouth and advertizing at the participating winter clubs is key to strong winter league participation. Theo is hoping that Rideau will continue to support and participate in NCTA leagues in the future.

CITY AGREEMENT

Paula Hadden-Jokiel heads an NCTA committee that is leading a collective discussion with the City on a new community club agreement. The City rep on this file is Kelly Bean, who was unable to attend the AGM due to prior commitments. Paula stated that the prior Community Club agreement was a 5-year agreement which expires this year. She hoped to have a final draft to hand out at the AGM, but the document is still in the hands of City lawyers. She stated that, from our perspective, discussions with the City highlighted the following:

- club frustration with the lack of City capital expenditures on tennis club infrastructure
- requirement for community clubs to be members of OTA. However, the City now indicates that this will not be mandatory
- the agreement will cover multiple areas of common interest and will clarify the responsibilities of both the City and the clubs
- it is hoped to have a final version ready for club distribution by late 2017 or early 2018

Phil stated that NCTA and the clubs have learned a lot during this exercise about the City's position with regard to Community Clubs. The City views municipal park courts and community club courts as assets owned by them. They feel that courts are turned over the club members as a privilege, enabling exclusive playing rights. In exchange, the members assume responsibility for maintenance, court control, and development of playing programs and lessons. The City accepts life-cycle renewal responsibility, but any funding available is shared with non-club courts and other City-owned sports assets.

Both Phil and Paula proposed the formation of a multi-club working group to address the issue of lack of City funding for life-cycle replacement of courts and facility infrastructure. Anyone interested in volunteers should contact Phil, Paula or Matt.

EXPERIENCE IN APPLYING FOR GRANT FUNDING

Diane Brazeau from Glen Cairn TC shared her experience in seeking funding through grants, particularly from the City. Grant applications need to be in by March 1st of each year. Support from the local councillor is very important during this process. In order to achieve success, clubs need to show a willingness to partner with the City in providing funds. Face-to-face meetings

with City staff are very important, as more flexibility is shown than through email correspondence.

Diane told the audience that the Ottawa Sports Council will be holding a meeting on November 29th. The focus will be to clarify how to fill out grant applications. Community clubs with an interest in applying for a grant should to attend. Clubs can email Matt for further details. Gary Eikenberry from Elmridge stated that, in his experience, there is a much better chance of receiving grant money if the club is incorporated as a not-for-profit organization.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The present slate of officers for the NCTA Board of Directors all agreed to serve for an additional two years. There were no further nominations from the floor. The new Board was thus re-elected unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

Gary Hawkes asked about the future of Roman Cup. Matt stated that the Roman Cup will very likely remain in Ottawa. It is the largest junior tournament event in Canada. We will need to find additional courts, although Rideau is still interested in supporting the event. Nick Patterson said that sponsorship from a leading hi-tech firm has dried up. However, Matt said that this should not really affect Roman Cup.

A show of hands indicated that several clubs had experience a loss of members this year, while just as many said that their membership was up. A discussion of ideas for boosting membership led to these suggestions:

- online and early registration
- active marketing
- high-profile events such as Davis Cup
- new member programs such as ladders, leagues, round robins, signup sheets for games
- use of social media for promotion

The Valley Stream rep stated that their club had converted one tennis court to several pickle ball courts. They now offer both pickle ball and tennis memberships. They have 81 pickle ball members, providing a significant boost to membership.

A rep from the Catholic School Board stated that all their school gyms have pickle ball. They see it as a lead-in for kids to then get into tennis in the summer months.

There was a question from the floor regarding a roster of instructors and teaching pros. Matt said that this can easily be compiled with the information available to NCTA.

Donna from the new Rideau multi-sport facility was asked to provide some information on their progress and business model. She said that 2 new domes have been purchased - one for tennis and one for multi-sports. This will leave 4 indoor courts for the winter. Rideau members will be able to purchase indoor court time, leaving the remaining time for pay-as-you-play. Summer tennis will be a mix of club programs and pay-as-you-play. With the seasonal removal of the

tennis bubble, 7 clay and 4 hard courts will remain available. This is more than adequate for their present tennis membership. Rideau is looking as their future level of involvement with NCTA leagues and tournaments. Clubhouse renovations are presently underway.

ADJOURNMENT

Phil Johnson thanked all for attending and adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:00pm.