

The National Capital Tennis Association
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2019

October 22nd, 2019
Britannia Yacht Club

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:45pm with Phil Johnson, NCTA President, presiding.

AGENDA:

The following was the Agenda adopted for the NCTA AGM 2018:

1. Roll call (Bruce)
2. Approval of minutes of last AGM (Bruce)
3. President's report (Phil)
4. Treasurer's report (Marinus)
5. Junior Development Committee (John)
6. Leagues and Tournaments (Theo)
7. Capital Kids update (Matt)
8. OTA Update (Zhenya)
9. City update (Kelly)
10. Group discussions (Phil)
11. Election of Officers (Phil)
12. Any other business (Phil)

ROLL CALL

Bruce Ramsay, NCTA Secretary, undertook a Roll Call. There were 15 voting OTA member clubs and associate members in attendance. In addition, there were non-voting clubs, organizations and individuals who attended the meeting. In total, 40-45 individuals were present.

With over 50% of the OTA member clubs in attendance, a quorum was declared for the 2018 AGM. Voting cards were distributed to the individual representatives entitled to vote on behalf of their club.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NCTA AGM 2019

The minutes for the AGM 2018 had been previously distributed by email. Bruce Ramsay briefly summarized the minutes. There was one minor typo regarding dates, that was corrected. Claué Leblanc, Barrhaven, tabled a motion to approve the 2018 AGM minutes, seconded by Lena Ray, NCTA Board. Minutes were approved unanimously.

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 presented the key results accomplished by NCTA over the past year. NCTA has grown with the addition of 3 new clubs (Blackburn, Crystal Beach and Richmond). Core programs were delivered including league and tournaments. Junior programs such as Team Tennis, Capital Kids and school programs were very successful this year. A total of 10,000 kids had at least one tennis experience through these programs!

Phil took note of the OTA Distinguished Service Award for 2019, which will be awarded to Mark Armstrong of our region at a presentation to be held in Toronto later in November. This award was for Mark's dedicated contributions over the years as a player, organizer, official, and mentor for up and coming players.

Phil gave the floor to Leena Ray, who is the NCTA Board member responsible for sponsorships and marketing. She recognized our present sponsors - RON KUNSTADT/KUNSTADT SPORTS and BETH EVERSON/ROYAL LEPAGE for their tremendous ongoing support to NCTA and to the tennis community in the region.. Leena then outlined her work in expanding our sponsorship opportunities. She has identified 28 opportunities for NCTA, and will be posting this information on the NCTA website shortly.

Finally, Phil thanked all the Board members program coordinators and volunteers, who contributed to the successes achieved in 2019.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Marinus Wins, NCTA Treasurer, reported that NCTA showed a surplus of \$7,600 in 2018. Several programs and tournaments ran at a surplus, our leagues broke even, but the City Championships showed a loss of \$5,100. This is partially due to the increase in prize money required to attract top players.

A projected surplus of \$2,600 is projected for 2019, with a projected bank balance of \$40,000.. Thus, NCTA has been steadily accumulating funds for future development and projects. A budget for 2020 will be developed in the coming weeks, with guidance from the new NCTA Board.

The Junior Development Fund is projected to close the year with approximately \$18,000. Fundraising strategy are being developed to achieve sustainability & cash distribution will be adjusted accordingly.

There was a question from the floor inquiring about plans for \$40,000 in the bank. Marinus stated that this is needed contingency funds. The present Capital Kids grant will run out, and

some of it may be needed to sustain the program. Other funds will be used to improve our tournaments in the years to come.

TOURNAMENT AND LEAGUE REPORT

Theo Baker-Kretzmar was unable to attend the AGM. Thus, Fei Wu reported on both NCTA Tournaments and Leagues. The City Championship had a large number of participants this year, but numbers for other tournaments - especially age-category tournaments - were down. Phil stated that some events were combined this year, on a trial basis, but this did not work out well. A committee has been struck to review our tournament age categories, groupings and formats, with a view to improving the tournament experience for players next summer season.

There were 18 mixed league teams, representing 12 clubs. Additionally, 12 players participated in the city singles league. Singles numbers were down especially, due to issues with "PayPal" in the spring. The switch to "Square" for league payment will hopefully make registration easier as we move forward.

There was discussion about more skill-based leagues, and demand for more leagues in the winter season. Fei made a plea for volunteers to be individual league commissioners, as she is finding it hard to organize all leagues on her own. Matt Barr and Alex Harea volunteered to assist in, particularly, leagues and tournaments for the more competitive players.

Alex Harea and Matt McKinnon brought up NCTA rankings and suggested the use of UTR to rank players and to run/seed leagues and tournaments. UTR rankings are more relatable to player comparisons outside of the NCR region. NTRC seems to be more tuned to recreational players, while UTR is developing as the standard for competitive players. Matt agreed to provide Fei with further information on the UTR system.

OTA COORDINATOR

Zhenya Kondratovski reported on the OTA activities that he was responsible for during the first year of his tenure as OTA Coordinator. He thanked Matt McKinnon for his assistance in the transition. Zhenya outlined the history behind the Junior Development Fund, and the allocation of funds during its first season under NCTA steerage. He emphasized that we need a sustainability plan, which should include sponsorships, and possibly a percentage of NCTA program proceeds. John Bouza, a professional fundraiser, has been approached to assist in this. Mike Protrescu-Comnene emphasized that funding needs are huge in order to support junior competitive players, especially when out-of-town travel is essential to gain tournament ranking points. Leena Ray remarked that "adopt-a-player" is one way someone can invest in a junior's success. Matt McKinnon has developed a set of junior player profiles which can be sent to business sponsors and potential "adopt-a-player" volunteers. Matt also suggested clubs may want to invest a small percentage of their fees into JDF.

Zhenya presented statistics on the number and locations of Capital Kid participants. The funding grant was for expanded Capital Kids activities....6 new locations were added, and plans are underway for winter locations as well. However, \$10 per kid was required to sustain the old

locations. Hao Pan did a great job as coordinator, and Fei Wu assisted with the social media publicity.

There was a discussion as to how to convert the kids into regular junior players at our clubs. It is hoped that CK and junior team tennis are pathways to school teams and tournaments, and eventually clubs. Alex Harea stated that we need to instill a love of the game, and need to make junior tennis more affordable. There is not much for a junior at a club these days. We need to concentrate on development of junior transition programs.

Zhenya also discussed the activities of "OTA Road Show", "Smash Cage", and "Green Means Go" programs this summer. He showed participation statistics for "Future Stars", "Little Aces", "Rogers Rookie Tour", and "School Clinics". All these programs were well attended and showed that interest in tennis is growing.

Finally, Zhenya outlined the Elementary and High School tournament activity he took over this year. It was getting extremely difficult for the schools to find a coordinator and so NCTA agreed to take this over. All agreed this is a very worthwhile program and is a key conversion target for junior participation in tennis as a sport.

CITY OF OTTAWA UPDATE

Phil introduced the challenging topic of court renewal. He stated that NCTA has met with the Ottawa Sports Council and the Sports Commissioner to explore funding options. He then introduced Kelly Bean from City Wide Sports to give a perspective on the issue from the City. She described the various branches of City government that provide support to sports facilities, and the funding challenges facing the City. One funding option is "Invest in Canada", a federal government infrastructure grant program. Funding of up to \$5M per project is available per project with the funds coming 40% from the federal government, 33% provincial government and 27% the requesting organization. The City is planning to submit an application for a \$5m grant to renovate tennis and basketball courts in City parks. If successful, these funds will be exclusive to tennis and basketball courts and will reduce the waiting list of facilities which the normal life-cycle renewal funding has not been able to address. Applications for this year are due by November 12th. Additional grants are available for new build facilities, especially for multi-sport facilities which may be of interest to clubs, for example, if there is an interest in adding pickle ball courts.

Phil emphasized that any future agreement between the clubs and the City will acknowledge that the clubs themselves will have to contribute to lifecycle renewal of facilities. Kelly reminded the clubs that new courts, usually built in the outer suburbs, are funded through developers fees. Kelly passed around a lifecycle renewal list for asphalt replacement, but re-emphasized that funding was extremely limited. The City contract manager described the new paving specifications. It comprises fine grain asphalt with lines painted directly on top. Slope will be 1% for water drainage. If a community club wants to add Plexipave, or another topping, it will need to fund this themselves. Kelly said that she would provide NCTA with the updated recreational facilities standards for distribution to the clubs.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Phil noted that all present NCTA Board members have declared their intention to remain, but that there were a couple of openings available. Zhenya nominated Michael Protrescu-Comnene for a club representative position...with a view to representing the parents of junior competitive players. Dave Hempell of St. James club seconded this nomination.

A motion to accept the proposed 2019 slate of officers, including the addition of Mike, was put forth by Leena Ray, seconded by Claude Leblanc. Approved unanimously.

The NCTA Board for the upcoming year will be as follows:

- President – Phil Johnson
- Vice President – Gary Eikenberry
- Secretary – Bruce Ramsay
- Treasurer – Marinus Wins
- Sponsorship and Marketing - Leena Ray
- City Representative – Kelly Bean
- Business Representative – Ron Kunstadt
- Tennis Professionals Rep – Nick Patterson
- Club Representatives:
 - Paula Jokiel (Manotick)
 - Beth Everson (OTLBC)
 - Michael Protrescu-Comnene (St. James)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, Phil Johnson thanked all for attending and adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:15pm.