

Golden Racquets (GR) Board of Director's (BOD) Meeting Minutes

January 7, 2021 (meeting held via Zoom)

Officers present:

Tom Burroughs, President
Gary Hinson, Vice President
Al McFarland, Treasurer
Connie Dineen, Recording Secretary

Officers Absent: None

Committee Chairs Present:

Bob Dineen, Special Assistant
Connie Dineen, Newsletter Editor
Dave Fleming, Operations & Planning Committee
Joanne Hensley, Web Master
Adele Neuberg, Membership Committee
Joe Wittling, Chief Information Officer

Committee Chairs Absent:

Steve Mateo, Ratings Committee

Committees Needing a Chairperson:

Caring Committee
Social Committee

Agenda Items:

Additional Playing Locations

- Tom shared that there appear to be many members who wish to play tennis outdoors in the coming summer session due to continued concerns surrounding COVID-19. Currently, GR has outdoor venues at Mason District, Nottaway Park, and Audrey Moore (aka Wakefield) Park for tennis, and believes GR should seek at least one more outdoor venue. Tom asked Gary Hinson and Dave Fleming to work together to try to find an additional outdoor facility for tennis -- and also for pickle ball, which is becoming more and more popular.
- Joe shared the geographic location of members (i.e., the number -- not names -- of members who live in the Fairfax area or the Vienna area), and the number of members who live in each of the geographic locations he mentioned. A request was made for Gary & Dave to consider this information as they seek additional tennis & pickle ball locations for the coming summer. One location that was suggested as a possibility was Lubber Run in Arlington.

Pickle ball

- Bob requested that GR ask to have Wakefield courts #1 & #2 used for pickle ball vs. courts #9 & #10. Courts #1 & #2 are in better playing condition than courts #9 & #10.
- Dave suggested, that due to the increased interest in pickle ball, a point of contact for pickle ball should be named. This person would handle any issues or concerns that arose regarding pickle ball. Karla Vernon has been the venue captain for the two GR pickle ball locations -- the outdoor venue at Wakefield Park and the indoor venue at Burke Racquet Club. Dave suggested that perhaps she might be asked to take a more formal role as the pickle ball point of contact. (NOTE: Tom shared that Karla has recently lost her mother to COVID-19 and that her father is now living with her. He asked that everyone bear in mind the additional responsibilities this has added to Karla's personal life.)

Ad Hoc Groups

- There are several ad hoc groups that continue to function outdoors, weather permitting. The questions of how many ad hoc groups are operating, who heads each group, and where are the groups playing were raised. Tom said he had this information and would provide it to Dave. When it has been necessary to ask a non-GR member to fill vacant playing spots in an ad hoc group, they are occasionally asked to provide new tennis balls. Currently, GR provides new tennis balls to these groups.

- There will continue to be no charge to those members playing in an ad hoc group. This decision will be reassessed when concerns regarding COVID-19 are lessened and the pandemic appears to be behind us, allowing for more indoor play.
- It was noted that there are times when non-GR members play in the ad hoc groups are unable to fill necessary playing spots with GR members.

Officer/Committee Chair Reports:

- President:
 - ✓ Tom reported that Steve Mateo was unable to attend the meeting, but had provided a report. Steve will discuss two matters with venue captains via email: (1) the ratings of members who are due for ratings updates, and (2) the ratings of players venue captains believe should be changed.
 - ✓ Discussion was held on the topic of whether or not to reopen GR membership. Several points, both pro & con, were shared, including when reopening would occur, should there be a limited number of new members accepted, would the reopening be transparently advertised, are potential members thoroughly informed that they may not be able to play immediately upon joining (due to their high seniority number), and the timeframe in which new members ratings must be held (May-October). At the conclusion of the debate, Bob made a motion to reopen membership with a cap of 40 and Gary seconded the motion. No further discussion was held, and the motion was passed unanimously. Open membership will resume on April 15, 2021.
 - ✓ Tom asked for thoughts on whether or not the captain's picnic should be held in June since there are still safety concerns relating to COVID-19. If the picnic is held, there was discussion about holding the picnic at the community pool location in Springfield that has been used in the past vs. holding the picnic at the newly renovated Roundtree Park in Falls Church. Both locations have very similar facilities that would accommodate the event. A suggestion was also made that rather than having a picnic, a lunch could be arranged at a local restaurant that is serving customers outdoors under an awning (not a tent). Ultimately, it was decided a decision would not be made on this matter until later in the summer, following the hopeful distribution of a COVID-19 vaccine that would be available to the general public.
- Vice President:
 - ✓ Gary agreed that the ventilation and early-entry issues at various clubs have been resolved.
 - ✓ Gary acknowledged that the ad hoc groups were going well, especially the one at South Run captained by Kelly McCaffrey.
 - ✓ Gary asked about having some "financial flexibility" when he speaks with someone from Arlington County regarding reserving pickle ball courts at Lubber Run. He is unsure as to the requirements of reserving courts in Arlington. He will not make any financial commitments, but will gather information to present to the BOD at a later time. Tom noted that GR member Betty de la Cruz is an Arlington resident, and may be a good GR-representative when speaking with Arlington County regarding the reservation of courts at Lubber Run.
- Treasurer:
 - ✓ Al shared that the GR checking account balance was \$24,000.00. He feels that is a large amount to be held in the checking account and that GR should consider a greater subsidy for members for their tennis play in the coming season. Joe suggested informing members that play is (and has been) subsidized by GR in order to keep the cost of tennis lower as he feels most members probably do not know this occurs. Tom stated this would make a good article for the next newsletter (not the coming January newsletter). Al offered the thought that this may need further consideration as there is no one clear-cut source of the excess funds -- that they accumulate from a variety of sources, such as members who pay their membership fee but do not actually play tennis. No decision was reached on this matter.

- ✓ Al stated that he would be filing the necessary IRS tax papers, as well as an end-of-the-year financial report. He will complete this report by March 2021.
- ✓ An audit also must be held. Fred King has done the GR audit for the last couple of years, and it was recommended that he be asked to do it again this year.
- Membership: Adele reported that she continues to maintain a wait list for those who wish to join GR. Currently, there are four people on the wait list.
- Newsletter: Connie stated that any articles for the newsletter should be to her by Friday, January 15. The next newsletter will be available at the end of January.
- CIO: Joe raised the question about how applications/requests for playing venues would be received. A motion was made by Joe and seconded by Gary to use the email system. Discussion was held about whether the email registration system should be used going forward or if we should continue to use the mail-in system that has been used in the past. Most recently, the prototype email registration system was used successfully for the Fall/Winter sign-ups without any changes to GRSys. Other potential changes to the process could require GRSys changes. It was also more convenient for the treasurer & the CIO, requiring less "back & forth" when sharing payment/refund information with individual members and actual venue selection with individual members. Following the discussion, a vote was taken on the motion, which passed unanimously.
- Operations and Planning:
 - ✓ Dave stated that there are still plenty of tennis balls available. Pickle ball venues have also been supplied with balls for playing pickle ball.
 - ✓ The ventilation issues at Fairfax Racquet and Burke Racquet Clubs have been resolved to everyone's satisfaction.
 - ✓ Dave shared that he was asked by Phil at Fairfax Racquet Club to remind players not to enter the club too early, and to observe all the safety guidelines established by the various locations hosting GR. Dave shared this with the venue captains, who have reminded their players.
 - ✓ Dave noted that the Wakefield Friday group is for all practical purposes defunct, due to the difficulty they were having in filling the spots each week. Dave wondered if GR will be asking to have this venue renewed with Fairfax Park Authority. This group was designated as a venue for lower-rated players (3.0-3.4), and there are very few GR members with this rating level. He wondered if this venue could be used either as a location with an increased rating level, or if it could be used as a pickle ball location. No decision was reached on this.
- Website: Joanne reported that there are no issues with the operation of the website.

Next Meeting: No date was set for the next meeting. Tom will inform board members of a selected date.

Adjournment: Tom adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:15pm

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Dineen
Recording Secretary