BOCA WEST
COUNTRY CLUB

MINUTES

MEETING:	Racquet Sports Committee
DATE:	December 4, 2023
MEMBERS PRESENT:	David Shifrin, Chairman; Jerry Appelblatt; Howard Attermann; Camille Bauer; Sandy Boilen; Michael Budd; Jeff Cohen; Dr. Marc Finkelstein; Lisa Glassner Frank; Glen Friedman; Karen Sussman; Jane Zenker; Robert Zenn;
MEMBERS ABSENT WITH NOTICE:	Steve Roth, Vice Chairman; Jane Zenker
PARTICIPANTS:	John Joyce, Director of Racquet Sports; Matt McInerney, Assistant Director of Racquet Sports; Maria Tato, Operations Manager
ISSUE DATE:	December 20, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 1:30pm by David Shifrin, Committee Chairman.

The minutes from the November 14th, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved.

1. John Joyce, Director of Racquet Sports, reported the following:
   a. The new Intra Club Pickleball League draft went well & all four teams have either 58 or 59 men & women players of all levels.
   b. The team colors have been chosen by the captains & the team shirts have been ordered.
   c. The first match will take place on Thursday, January 11, 2024 & the matches will be played on all 14 pickleball courts at 3pm & all 14 courts will be used again at 4pm for matches.

   d. New signs reminding players to use the paddle racks when the courts are full have been installed.

   e. The new ice machine and encasement for the pickleball courts were ordered & will be installed as soon as they arrive.

   f. The addition of several additional pickle ball courts as well as a "stadium style" pickle ball court adjacent to the west side of the newer pickle ball courts was discussed & it is believed that they will be budgeted & installed by 2025.
   g. The committee questioned when the older pickleball courts would also have evening lights.

   h. Both sessions for the Pickle ball member/guest tournaments sold out within minutes of the registrations opening & are currently wait-listed.
   i. Those two tournaments will take place on January 14th & January 21, 2024.

   j. The Pickle ball Pro Exhibition on November 25th featuring our resident touring pro, Christa Gecheva, was well received & well attended by the members.

2. POP ("pickle ball open play") sessions, which are held every Monday from 10:30am - noon are organized & instructed by Matt McInerney, Assistant Director of Racquet Sports, and have been well received & well attended by Racquet Sport members who are newer to the pickle ball game.
   a. Last week, 45 members attended.
   b. Karen Sussman questioned keeping some courts open for other members to play during the same time but the committee felt that since POP only runs for 90 minutes during a less desirable playing time, they should be entitled to all 14 courts.
   c. Dr. Marc Finkelstein asked if an afternoon POP session could be made available again but since the Intra Club league will now be using all of the courts on Thursday afternoons, which previously was the POP afternoon time slot, the answer was "no".
   d. The committee was reminded that we have a new pickleball ball machine that newer players, as well as seasoned players, can take advantage of anytime.

3. The Holiday Family Pickleball & Tennis tournaments are already fully committed with a wait list.
   e. The Family Tennis Tournament will take place on December 28th & the Family pickleball Tournament will take place on December 30th.
      a. There are also several junior tennis clinics & parities available at the end of December, as well.

e. The tennis courts that needed resurfacing have all been completed & are currently being used.

4. The Ladies Tennis Member/Guest will take place on January 31st and sold out by 4pm on 12/2/23.
   a. There are several "member/member" registrants playing this year so the committee agreed that accepting only "member/guest" registrants next season for this event will be a better option since Racquet Sports already hosts several "member only" tennis events.
   b. Having a two week registration deadline for member/guests & then opening the registration to member/members if the event is not fully committed was suggested by the committee.

5. The Men's tennis member/guest event currently has 24 players signed up & is typically not as fully committed as the women's member/guest tennis event.

6. The tennis "Pro Am" event which allows members to play in a tournament with professionals has sold out. That event will take place on January 26, 2024.

7. The new tennis league, "Boca Cup" will begin on January 7th, 2024. The league consists of advanced tennis players, only, wishing to play competitive singles matches throughout the season. So far there are 14 players signed up for the league. David Shifrin, Committee Chairman, thanked Glen Friedman for initiating the new league.

8. Matt McInerney, Assistant Director of Racquet Sports reported the following:

9. Racquet Sports would like to initiate a monthly evening pickleball tournament that will be named, "DUPR After Dark" and each match played during the evening event will count towards a member's DUPR rating, which stands for "Dynamic Universal Pickleball Rating".
   - The first evening DUPR After Dark tournament will take place in January & the committee suggested holding the new tournament on a Friday night each month.
   - The idea was well received by the committee since there is currently only one evening pickleball tournament which is run more like a "pickleball party" by the Xglosive company which is known for their evening "glow in the dark" pickleball parties.
   - The Xglosive evening tournament will be played in the evening of January 3rd this year & is fully committed with a wait list.

10. Maria Tato, Operations Manager reported the following:
    The Play For P.I.N.K. tennis & pickleball tournaments will be played this coming weekend with one session being played for tennis on Saturday, December 9th & two sessions being played for pickleball on Sunday, December 10th.
    a. Lunch will be provided both days.
    b. The players must donate $50 to the Play For P.I.N.K. organization which raises money for breast cancer research in order to play in the tournament.
    c. At this time, we have 71 participants signed up to play tennis on Saturday & 85 total participants signed up to play in the two pickleball sessions on Sunday.
    d. There will be several other opportunities during the tournaments to raise funds for the organization including raffle ticket sales & personalizing pink ribbons that will be displayed in the pro shop window for the week.

e. There will also be several items raffles off at the Tennis Dinner on Friday evening, December 7th, which will follow a tennis exhibition played by the Boca West tennis pros Robert Norton & Niko Ruiz against tennis pros from Woodfield Country Club.
f. The Play for P.I.N.K. events have been played by our Boca West golfers for 10+ years so Racquet Sports is looking forward to our 1st Annual Play For P.I.N.K. events & hoping to grow the attendance & fundraising each subsequent year.
g. Maria also reported that the newer Boca West members have been calling & visiting the Racquet Sports pro shop & exhibiting a lot of interest in getting involved in the tennis & pickleball programs.
h. There has also been a significant amount of interest by all members in the holiday racquet sports offerings & schedule of events.

11. Sandy Boilen reported the following:
    a. The retail shop is doing well & the pickleball attire & KSwiss sneakers are the best sellers.
    b. Sandy informed the committee that the retail shop will be carrying LuLu Lemon brand attire very soon which is very popular with the younger members.
    c. Matt McInerney also let the committee know that a new brand of pickleball paddles called "PIKKL" will soon be available in our retail shop, as well.

12. Dr. Marc Finkelstein questioned whether a broader range of sneaker brands could be sold by our retail shop.
    a. Maria Tato responded that the other brands didn't sell as well & retail space is limited, so inventory needs to be limited to top selling brands, only.
    b. Dr. Marc also feels that the POP session should be moved to the afternoon.

13. Camille Bauer questioned the following:
    a. The issue again regarding non-members who are unregistered using the pickleball courts at night after our pro shop is closed.
    b. John Joyce responded that policies are being developed to better monitor the nighttime play.
14. Camille also questioned whether the potential Boca West home buyers who take advantage of our "Stay & Play" program are also signing up to play tennis & pickleball as well as golf & the answer was "yes".

15. Lisa Glassner Frank questioned the best way to communicate with the new Intra Club league players since there are close to 60 players per team.

16. The favorable options seem to be using the apps "Team Reach" or "What's App" or a group email where each member is blind copied so that they don't "reply all" to 60 members.

17. Karen Sussman suggested adding a third paddle rack on the opposite side of the new courts so that there will be two paddle racks in that area.

18. Karen feels that only one rack doesn't allow for the best morning organization since there are two separate seating areas. The response was that a third paddle rack will be considered.

19. Rob Zenn stated how nice it is to see so many new pickleball players on the courts.

i. He is also thrilled with the tremendously positive response to the new pickleball Intra Club league.

c. The committee questioned whether or not the requested/required 75% availability should stand in order to participate in the league or if that requirement should be reduced to 50%.
d. Sandy Boilen responded that player availability is extremely important to the team captains in order to manage their teams.
e. As of now, the 75% requirement will stand.

20. Glen Friedman mentioned that the fence on court 12 is leaning.
    - The staff responded that they are aware and are awaiting a quote for the repair.

21. Michael Budd stated that he feels strongly that if there is only one POP, (pickleball organized play), session per week then the session should be moved to the afternoon.

22. Howard Attermann complimented Glen Friedman on his initiative in helping to implement the newly formed Tennis Singles League.
    a. Howard feels that requiring a 50% commitment in order to participate in the new league Intra Club pickleball league shouldn't pose a problem since there is a surplus of players on each team.
    b. Howard also feels that the POP session should be moved to the afternoon since there tends to be better availability for new players in the afternoon.

23. A few Racquet Sports members brought issues up to Jerry Appelblatt which were:
    - Improving the drinks & ice stations on the courts; har tru (clay) from the courts being tracked from the tennis courts onto the sidewalks & pickleball courts so installing more sneaker wash stations or even dry brush stations would be helpful; more participation for morning tennis game arranging.
    - The responses to these issues were: Now that the season has begun, the tennis game arranging participation is increasing. Dr Marc Finkelstein suggested that putting sneaker cleaning stations next to the pickleball courts would be helpful.

24. Jeff Cohen suggested:
    - That emailing tennis game arranging "rule reminders" to the Racquet Sports members would be helpful.
    - Jeff also suggested holding the Tennis Exhibition & Dinner later in the season so that it will be better attended. Jeff also asked that a reminder be sent out for players to donate their used tennis balls for the tennis ball machines.

25. David Shifrin, Committee Chairman, complimented the Racquet Sports Board Committee & acknowledged that every committee member is fully engaged in Racquet Sports & very productive.
    - He also stated that our "sister/equivalent" clubs look to Boca West Racquet Sports as the Gold Standard ~ something we should all be very proud of!

The meeting was adjourned at 2:33pm.

The next Racquet Sports Committee meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 1:30pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lisa Glassner Frank.