BOCA WEST
COUNTRY CLUB

MINUTES

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| **MEETING:** | Racquet Sports Committee |
| **DATE:** | January 9, 2023 |
| **MEMBERS PRESENT:** | David Shifrin, Chairman; Steve Roth, Vice Chairman; Jerry Appelblatt; Howard Attermann; Camille Bauer; Michael Budd; Jeff Cohen; Dr. Marc Finkelstein; Lisa Glassner Frank; Glen Friedman; Karen Sussman; Jane Zenker; Robert Zenn; |
| **MEMBERS ABSENT WITHOUT NOTICE:** | Sandy Boilen; |
| **PARTICIPANTS:** | John Joyce, Director of Racquet Sports; Matt McInerney, Assistant Director of Racquet Sports; Maria Tato, Operations Manager |
| **ISSUE DATE:** | January 23, 2024 |

The meeting was called to order at 1:32 pm by David Shifrin, Committee Chairman.

The minutes from the December 4th, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved.

A. John Joyce, Director of Racquet Sports reported on the following:
    1. Play For P.I.N.K.
        a. The Tennis Dinner prior to the event was attended by 150 racquet sports members.
        b. The 1st Annual Play For P.I.N.K. events on Saturday & Sunday were close to sold out
            - The 1st pickleball session was sold out with a few spots remained in the second session.
            - The tennis event was close to being sold out
            - Approximately $15,000 was raised at this 1st annual racquet sports event

    2. The December holiday events were well received & well attended
        a. Daily junior tennis clinics & adult cardio tennis clinics were available.

    3. The busiest Racquet Sports day in December- 650 racquet players checked into the pro shop

    4. The "X-glo" pickleball tournament was once again a huge success
        a. The event sold out with two times slots available- 6:30pm & 7:30pm.
        b. There were a total of 120 pickleball players participating.

    5. The Men's Tennis Member/Guest Tournament was a huge success:
        a. Bill Norris was the keynote speaker.
            - Bill spoke about the successful use of laser for treatment of sports injuries.

    6. The Pickleball Member/Guest Tournaments:
        a. Sold out for both dates on January 14th & January 21st
        b. The theme will be "Super Heroes"
        c. Our resident pickleball pro, Christa Gecheva, will be the keynote speaker on the 14th
        d. Steve Kennedy, who runs Pickleball camps in SOFL, will be keynote speaker on the 21st.

    7. John reported that the lighted pickleball courts at night are running smoothly with no issues.

    8. John announced the Pro Am Tennis Tournament
        a. It will have 40 tennis pros participating and 40 tennis members participating
            - There is currently a small wait list.
            - Any level of tennis play is welcome to participate in the Pro Am tournament

    9. The 1st Annual Intra-club Pickleball League is about to begin
        b. There are approximately 250 participants on 4 teams
        c. Team shirts have been distributed
        d. Team photos have been taken.
        e. The delay in lighting the 8 original pickleball courts is due to new permit requirements since the original 6 courts were lighted.
    10. John shared insights for Tennis related repairs:
        a. The fence on tennis court # 12 will be repaired ASAP

- Engineering is scheduling the installation.

b. The "gate gaps" on pickleball courts # 9 - 14 will also be fixed soon.

11. John shared insights from Matt Linderman regarding the Racquet Sports "wish list"
    a. Wish list consists of upgrading the tennis courts with the following:
        - New fences, new court surfaces & new irrigation
        - Turning tennis courts # 1, 2 & 3 into additional pickleball courts with one stadium style pickleball court.
        - Redesigning of the interior of the Racquet Sports pro shop.
        - Wish list items commencement estimated for 2025.

B. Matt McInerney, Assistant Director of Racquet Sports, reported the following:
    1. Matt thanked the racquet sport members & their families for the wonderful holiday racquet event participation.

    2. Matt announced the past week's POP (pickleball organized play) set a record at 64 participants
        a. All commitments were filled
        b. All 14 pickleball courts were utilized.

    3. Matt acknowledged the Boca West racquet sports camaraderie & member support for those who came out to watch & cheer on the 1st Play It Forward League matches this past Monday.

C. Maria Tato, Operations Manager, reported the following:
    1. Maria stated that the Pickleball Member/Guest Tournaments breakfast will be relocated to the pro shop patio to make it more convenient for the tournament players.

    2. Maria reported that the Ladies' Tennis member/guest tournament is sold out for January 31st.
        a. Historically, this event was not over-subscribed so all member/member teams were accepted.
        b. Realizing that a wait list would be required this year, it was determined that next year's event only member/guest reservations would be accepted with possibly two rsvp deadlines
            - First deadline for member/guests
            - The second deadline is to accommodate member/member reservations if availability remains after the first deadline.
    3. Maria shared a new play format that may be incorporated for the Pickleball member/guest rather than initiating a 3rd tournament date.

D. The Committee at large discussed the following Racquet Sports issues:
    1. The court availability issue as well as the current RSVP protocol.
    2. It was noted that currently 80 people are on a waiting list for the Pickleball member/guest tournaments.
    3. J. Zenker proposed holding an additional week-day of tournament play in addition to the weekend dates.
    4. R. Zenn suggested changing the playing format to shorter interval times to allow more players into each tournament.
        - Karen Sussman believes that changing to a shorter playing time would be a negative since it wouldn't allow for enough individual playing time

- Karen also feels that the lottery system doesn't give the players enough notice if the lottery is conducted too close to the tournament date.

5. S. Roth stated that the pickleball event wait lists shouldn't be a problem once we have the additional pickleball courts available.
    - Maria Tato agreed and stated that tennis doesn't have the same waitlist/ over-sold event issues as pickleball.
6. L. Glassner Frank suggested forming a sub-committee to address the RSVP Racquet Sports procedures & wait list issues.
    - David Shifrin, Committee Chair, requested that Lisa Glassner Frank send an email to initiate the formation of said sub-committee.

A. Committee Member participation continued with the following:
1. C. Bauer inquired about signing up for pickleball & tennis courts on the Boca West Club app
    a. John Joyce replied that that request has already been submitted to the Boca West IT department.
2. J. Cohen commented on the following:
    a. The daily mess (used towels & cups) that is left behind in the pickleball court seating areas
    b. The continuing issue of seats & tables being used for pickleball bags.
    c. In addition, Jeff requested signage reminding the ball machine users to clean up the balls when they are finished & not leave balls for the staff or next player to clean up.
        - Lisa Glassner Frank suggested installing permanent bag hooks on the fences.
3. S. Roth made the following suggestions:
    a. Resurfacing the gravel areas near the pickleball courts since gravel is being tracked onto the courts.
4. D. Shifrin, Committee Chair, requested feedback for the following:
    a. Possibly using the USTA tennis player rating system in lieu of our Boca West Club tennis rating system
    b. John Joyce shared that the ratings used by the Boca West staff for the tennis & pickleball players is reviewed frequently & changed accordingly ~ especially for pickleball.
        - Because the BW staff ratings will always be much more current & accurate, the committee agreed to continue with our personal player rating system "as is".
5. C. Bauer shared that the Ladies Power Pickleball League requires that first aid kits are available at the pickleball courts at all times.
    a. It was noted that there are portable first aid kits that can be picked up at the pro shop & brought out to the courts for matches.
    b. Camille also suggested that a timer be used on the pickleball courts to make sure players vacate the courts in a timely manner.
        - A few committee members & staff members felt that it wasn't possible to implement that idea.
6. J. Zenker discussed the issue regarding tennis game arranging which is played from 9am - 10:30am
    a. Sometimes players would like to remain on the court longer to finish a point or a game, etc
    b. It would be helpful to assign 10:30am tennis court reservations to unused courts first rather than courts already occupied.
7. Dr. M. Finkelstein felt that the pro staff handled the holiday racquet sport crowds very well.
    a. Dr. Finkelstein also asked about the possibility of adding "Padel" to racquet sports

- The committee discussed prior to the meeting via email & felt that the amount of space that each Padel court requires and the long time commitment required would be undesirable for a large club that already has court availability issues.

8. J. Appelblatt had questions about the following:
    a. If the parking lot close to the pro shop would return to normal soon.
    b. Jerry complimented the X-Glo event but felt that safety goggles should be due to nighttime vision issues that could potentially cause injuries.
    c. Jerry suggested that POP return to two times per week rather than remaining at one time per week since it is currently fully subscribed at 64 players!
9. H. Attermann agreed with the idea of permanent pickleball bag hooks on the pickleball fences.
    a. He also congratulated M. McInerney on POP being sold out & agreed with a subcommittee to hash out the racquet sports wait list issues.
10. M. Budd praised the new pickleball ball machine and the new intra-club pickleball league.
11. G. Friedman shared that he recently subscribed to an app that films your matches via your cell
    a. It is called "Swingvision" & Glen feels that it is an excellent learning tool
12. K. Sussman wanted to follow up on the issue regarding disruptive players on the Boca West racquet sport teams.
    a. Karen feels that there should be guidelines & procedures to handle disruptive players who are creating unnecessary problems for their captains and/or teams.
        - J. Joyce replied that the captain should report the player to the racquet sports staff.
        - This would open up a conference with the player, committee chairs, and Racquet Sports Director regarding their behavior.
13. R. Zenn discussed the issue of wet pickleball courts that need to be dried by sweeping and blowing with blowers
    a. Rob inquired why BW maintenance staff couldn't be requested to assist with court drying so it wasn't the sole responsibility of the Boca West racquet sports staff
        - J. Joyce stated that a new racquet sports maintenance person has been hired and will assist with the drying of the pickleball courts.

E. David Shifrin ended the meeting stating the following:
    1. This will be the last meeting for this committee & his last meeting as Committee Chair.
    2. David requested that each member who is not planning to continue on the committee to formally make that announcement via email to the committee chairs.
    3. D. Shifrin feels that it has been an excellent committee, that so much has been accomplished as a result & that the Racquet Sports moral has never been better!

The meeting was adjourned at 2:44pm.

The next Racquet Sports Committee meeting will take place on February 13, 1:30 PM in the Palmer Room.