

SCTA Board/General Membership Meeting Minutes
May 3, 2023
Pinckney Hall, 6:00PM

Board Attendees: Chris Scott, President
Bruce McConnell, Vice President
Martha Widgen, Treasurer
Gail Fitzmaurice, Secretary
Michael Sacks, Director, Membership
Greg Pavan, Director, Bucket Brigade/Ombudsman
Diane Dowling, Director, Events
Deb Campbell, Director, Tennis Ambassadors

Call to Order: Chris Scott

Chris Scott called the meeting to order at 6:05PM and Gail Fitzmaurice determined that a quorum of the Board was present. Chris verified that the April Board Meeting minutes had been posted to the Logo bulletin board, the SCTA website, and emailed in an E-Blast to the members. There was a motion to approve the April Board Meeting minutes and all Board members voted their approval. Michael Sacks completed an analysis of the members who had signed in for this meeting and advised that a quorum of the SCTA membership was present.

Treasurer's Report: Martha Widgen

Martha Widgen reviewed the April Treasurer's report. There was a motion to approve and the Board voted its approval. The April Treasurer's report is included with these minutes as a separate document.

DIRECTOR/LIAISON REPORTS

Membership: Michael Sacks

Current members: 739 (last year at this time there were 742)

2023 Budget calls for 750 members

April membership billing submitted to CA

6 new members - \$300

Total dues collect year-to-date: \$35,400

SCHHCA asked all Clubs to submit only one billing per month:

April billing included the above membership billing:	\$300
WTO Trivia Night	\$2150
Mix & Match	<u>\$4020</u>
Total April billing	\$6470

Online membership directory is up-to-date including results from the April rating clinic and reflecting rating type changes as advised by the Intraclub Coordinators.

Ambassadors: Deb Campbell

Deb reported that SCTA has been approached by Sun City Peachtree in GA to come to our facility to play. Deb will be speaking with their representative this week to find out what levels of players will be coming and what format interests them. Tentatively looking at early September since there is no USTA at that time. Deb will work with Gavin Cox for guidance. If this works out, SCTA could make arrangements to visit SC Peachtree to play tennis there next year. Deb will also contact the SC softball club as it has prior experience hosting players from SC Peachtree.

Deb reminded the membership that we have 6 tennis ambassadors who welcome new players to the game, returning players who haven't played in many years, and new Sun City residents looking for competitive tennis. Deb thanked the ambassadors for all they do to welcome new tennis players and get them back in the game:

Linda Borovitch, PJ Mahoney, Linda Chasnov, Mickey Romeo, Debra Murray, and Tom Jones

Bucket Brigade: Greg Pavan

Based on reactions from many tennis players, Greg has changed the yellow discs to red on the court scoreboards to make the discs easier for spectators to see during matches. Greg's next project is cleaning all the scoreboards. Volunteers are welcomed to assist (date/s to be advised)!

WTO: Barb Fluharty

Barb reported that the WTO Trivia Night held on 3/31/23 was a huge success netting \$5,386.74. This provides a good start towards WTO's fundraising goal of \$10,000 for the year. Funds raised are donated to Bluffton Self Help, the Memorial Scholarship Fund, Public Tennis, Inc., and Pledge the Pink Foundation.

The Scholarship Committee met and awarded scholarships to 6 students from John Paul II, 2 students from May River HS, 3 students from Bluffton HS, and 2 students from Hilton Head Christian Academy, totaling \$2,950.

WTO held the popular Match Point event in late April during the Mix & Match Tournament, raising \$1,100.

SAVE THE DATE: 9/23/23! WTO will hold its **Tennis in the Pink** event featuring fun tennis challenges, the opportunity to have your racquet stenciled with the Rally for the Cure logo, and lunch. Courts and adjacent areas will be decorated with Rally for the Cure Logos. Registration details will be forthcoming for this fun September event.

USTA Liaison: Mary deCesare

Michael Sacks presented Mary’s report on the overhead projector. The highlight of the report was that Sun City fielded 18 USTA teams in the Spring season leagues. Six of those teams (see below for team league, level and team Captain) will be competing at the **State championships on Hilton Head 5/18 through 5/22.**

- 55+ Men’s 3.0 Michael McCombs
- 55+ Men’s 3.5 Don McCarl (2nd place in the division)
- 55+ Women’s 3.0 Mary deCesare
- 70+ Men’s 3.0 Bob Waite
- 70+ Men’s 3.5 Steven Nygren
- 70+ Women’s 3.0 Corinne Miller

Currently a total of eleven 65+ and 75+ Sun City USTA teams are playing.

This summer, there will be Mixed Doubles teams followed by Combo teams.

Tri-level league will consist of one team in Sun City with 18 women, with play starting in October for 8 weeks.

A new Fall league is in the planning stages and will include CCTA and HHI with playoffs between the two.

Intraclub Liaison: Rich White

Rich reported that Intraclub men’s and women’s teams are currently playing at various levels. Feel free to contact Rich with any questions.

Recycling: Chris Scott

Chris reported that Sun City has recycled 58,000 tennis balls in the last 2 years, along with 108,000 water bottles.

OLD BUSINESS

Policies & Procedures: Michael Sacks

Michael showed a slide presentation with the voting results of the revised Policies & Procedures:

- 276 members voted (37% of the SCTA membership)
- 78% voted YES
- 22% voted NO

Mix & Match Tournament Final Report: Dudley Kay

Dudley advised that the planned 4 day event was successfully completed in 3 days due to weather. There were 204 players (with some shared roster positions) and the player ratings for

the tournament were the highest yet. **The Slammers** team won. There were 34 sponsors. Dudley thanked all the captains, volunteers, and Donna Ryan who will be the Tournament Director next year.

SCTA Website Review: Chris Scott

Michael Sacks and Chris will be meeting with Bud Brooks to modernize/update the SCTA website.

Brooms/Supply Chain Issue: Chris Scott

New court brooms have been ordered (being paid for by SCHCA) but there is no estimated time of arrival yet.

NEW BUSINESS

Appointment of Interim Vice President: Chris Scott

The Board held an executive meeting on 4/23/23 during which Bruce McConnell was unanimously elected as Interim Vice President to serve until 12/31/23.

Five Year Plan Committee: Chris Scott

Chris met with Karen Benedict regarding an ad hoc committee to be created with Karen as the chair. Karen read her presentation during the Open Discussion for Membership and a copy of her presentation is included with these minutes, **with the following correction** as pointed out by Chris Scott during the meeting:

On page 2, in the first paragraph:

Delete: "Our Club President and Vice President were not elected by the membership but appointed by Lifestyles."

Replace with: "The interim President and Interim Vice President were each duly elected by a vote of the Executive Board in accordance with the SCTA Bylaws, Article III, Section G."

Club Championship: Chris Scott

Chris stated that the Board is seeking ideas for the next Club Championship to be held later this year.

Executive Board Session adjourned at 6:57PM.

**OPEN DISCUSSION FOR MEMBERSHIP
(Comments to be limited to 10 minutes)**

Chris Scott spoke of the relationship between the Community Association and Sherry Bronski. Based on what Chris had been told of the relationship with Sherry Bronski, as being toxic, Chris

was advised by Susan Kreick that she felt her Board and previous Boards had a very good relationship with Sherry Bronski. During Susan's administration and previous SCTA boards, Chris personally had no way of knowing this, so he stands corrected.

Due to the large number of attendees who wanted to speak, the names of each speaker are below followed by the general topic on which they spoke. None had a prepared presentation.

Joanne Patterson – support for the SCTA Board

Robin Rickenbach – support for the SCTA Board

David Hale – support for the SCTA Board

Corrinne Miller – support for the SCTA Board

Dave Zeman – support for the SCTA Board

David Geatz – support for the SCTA Board

Neil Shannon – question on Policies & Procedures updates which was answered by Chris & Gail

Alan Kwiatkowski – question on \$50 dues/scheduling cost which was answered by Chris in detail

Milt Neuman – guest fees; Chris will approach Lifestyles to request removal of guest fees for children/grandchildren of residents

OPEN DISCUSSION FOR MEMEBRSHIP SESSION ADJOURNED AT 7:44PM.

NEXT BOARD MEETING:

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 2023

6:00PM

Lakehouse, Bayside Room

A 5-year plan is necessary to plan for or anticipate the needs of the Club.

The financial stability and demographics in our community have changed, and our club needs a strategy to maintain our competitive position against all the other clubs. Developing a 5 – year plan is very important to the growth of our club and the enhancing the enjoyment of the members.

Capital Improvements – The club cannot do anything without the approval of the General Manager. This is very difficult to obtain and a very long process. But it is important to seek membership ideas.

Financial Stability – Members are paying \$50 per year but a large chunk of this is going to pay for “scheduling”. In the interest of transparency, the membership should know where is this money going. We lost over 300 SCTA members when due were raised to \$50 to support a scheduler. If our membership keeps dropping, it would not be surprising to see the dues increase.

Membership growth –How do we encourage new members and how do we retain current members? We need a plan to respond to anticipated user and membership growth over the next 5 years. We might consider offering different levels of membership with a sliding dues scale. Many of the newer residents are not choosing tennis, but leaning more towards pickleball. Even though our numbers appear the same from last year, they have dropped. We have 730 members but no real growth compared to the number of new residents moving into Sun City.

Succession Planning - The resignation of the Vice President and President has left many members wondering what is going on. News of the lawsuit filed against SCTA and others is spreading like wildfire. Our Club President and Vice President were not elected by the membership but appointed by Lifestyles. At the end of the year these individuals will be gone and we will be looking for candidates for these critical vacancies. We have no successors, and no one in the wings getting the training necessary to step in to these roles. We cannot wait until later in the year for the nomination committee to seek replacements.

Tennis is not the sport it was even 5 years ago. Our demographics have changed to residents who want to play golf and Pickleball. Tennis is very low on the list for new residents. Many communities in the area are taking tennis courts and replacing them with pickleball courts. Don't be surprised if in the future this happens to us with our lack of membership growth compared to pickleball.

Fixing these issues will not be easy, but it is not impossible. What we have learned through recent events is that the status quo is no longer an option.