



Harbour Town Racquet Club
3 Marina Road / P.O. Box 15001
New Bern, NC 28562
252-636-5652

October 19, 2015
Annual Membership Meeting

LOCATION OF MEETING: River Bend Town Hall Meeting Room

CALL TO ORDER: President Ed Hall called the meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 6:10 p.m. In attendance were Ed Hall, Rich Lamke, Dan Frey, Tommaso Serra, Mike See, Kathy Rioux, Bob Murphy, Frank Bruno, Gayle Daras, Gail & Lou Zarrello, Laurel Baldwin, Brad Humphreys, Steve Groninga, Zin & Sandy Sharf, Dottie Ralph, Larry Whitney.

Ed Hall opened the meeting by welcoming the members and giving an overall fiscal report, dispelling any rumors regarding the club becoming solvent. Ed announced that Barbara Powell had resigned her position on the Board and that we would need to nominate a new Board member.

Rich Lamke, Treasurer, reviewed the Fiscal End of Year Report of September 30th (see attached), emphasizing that the club needs to be frugal with expenses.

OPEN DISCUSSION ENSUED ABOUT HOW WE CAN GROW OUR MEMBERSHIP AND IMPROVE OUR CLUB:

- Brad Humphreys inquired about raising the membership fee.
- Gayle Daras raised the idea of seeking grant money.
- Dottie Ralph spoke on behalf of Ken (who was sick) and explained the roles of Board members in the past, in particular a "Publicity Coordinator", who would reach out to realtors and local papers about events, etc.
- In addition, Zin Sharf suggested that we advertise the club's schedule in the local paper including the open play times to encourage new members.
- And Dan Frey suggested we promote our M-W-F format for Men and Women.

- Other venues for advertising include the local Library, other areas downtown, and the *New Bern Now* website and newsletter. Club member, Tom Balance, the owner of *Captain Ratty's Restaurant* downtown, has offered to place a poster as large as 24 x 36 in the window of his restaurant.

- Ed Hall mentioned that the local "Talk Radio" station offers free programming and this may be something we would want to consider.

- Laurel Baldwin suggested having an after school tennis program for Juniors . Mike See countered that transportation would be an issue for getting the kids here and that there are not many kids in the community. The question was raised if we could hire an assistant for Mike (perhaps a student) to help with this type of program.

- Larry Whitney shared that local tournaments have been a big draw, but others countered that this is a big expense and did not feel it would be good for our club because it would draw participants from a distance and would not draw in local people.

- Tommaso Serra inquired about our relationship with other clubs and how our club compares to local tennis clubs. Others reported that the community views HTRC as a tennis club for "seniors". The general consensus was that New Bern Country Club is the best tennis club in this area.

- Tommaso also posed the question to Rich, our Treasurer, of how many members we need in order to keep the club running up to par. Rich reported #90.

- Steve Groninga, our club's webmaster, has spent considerable time updating and revising our website so it can be accessed by all media platforms. In addition, Steve placed an interactive Google Calendar on the website so we can post up-to-date information on events or court closings due to weather issues, etc. Changes and updates are ongoing including up-to-date biographical data on Mike See, our club pro.

REGARDING MAINTENANCE:

- Maintenance needs were raised and plans were discussed to replace the lines on two courts, which Ed Hall says he can plan and organize instead of paying a contractor. We also have an ample reserve of Har-Tru for the next year.

- In addition, Ed is planning a membership work day on October 31st to paint the deck and gazebos.

- Tommaso Serra has developed a Project List of items that need to be repaired, with members volunteering to address these needs at a time that is convenient for them. Tommaso requested that the projects be approved by Ed and the volunteers work in pairs, for safety reasons.

- Lou Zarrello and a few other members raised the concern that some older members may not have the ability to work but they would be happy to make a donation toward projects.
- Gayle Daras pointed out that we need better drainage for Courts 3 and 4 and also suggested that perhaps the City of River Bend could do additional grading that would improve the drainage on Court 5.
- The ongoing drainage issues are a big concern and a major expense . Member, Jed Kennish, with the help of other members and Mike, have dug drainage ditches, but over time they get grown over with grass. It was noted that the Lawn Service must be instructed to trim the grass in the area around the ditches.

NOMINATIONS:

A MOTION was made by Kathy Rioux to nominate Tommaso Serra to the Board. The MOTION was SECONDED by Lou Zarrello and Laurel Baldwin, and all voted in favor.

BYLAWS OF THE HARBOUR TOWN RACQUET CLUB OF NEW BERN:

The club Bylaws document had many formatting errors due to change in word processing formats over the years. Ed Hall spent a considerable amount of time correcting errors in formatting, alignment, and spelling. In addition, changes were made to reflect current club policies including:

1. Medical leave of absence changed from 6 months to 3 months, with an extension every 3 months as approved by The Board.
2. Change \$5.00 per play-day fee to, "posted guest fee".
3. The USTA "Travel-N-Play" Program mentioned in the original Bylaws is no longer in effect through the USTA. This section has been modified to allow any active USTA member to play at our club at the current guest rate. This will encourage tennis players to try our club and perhaps attract new members, as well as provide added income.

Ed also communicated with Bill Hollows, the club's attorney, who reviewed our current Bylaws document and noted that it had no authority because it had no authorizing signature. Therefore, a motion was made by Frank Bruno to accept the revised document and have it signed and authorized. The motion was seconded by Brad Humphreys and all voted in favor.

The revised and authorized Bylaws document will be filed with our *Articles of Incorporation* and will also be posted in the Members Only section of our website.

Ed suggested that the Policies document needs to be reviewed and updated as well.

Bob Murphy asked for clarification about the fee for those involved in the "Travel Groups", and it was agreed that each participant would be required to pay the current guest fee of \$10.00 and this would include lunch, according the group's current practice.

Dan Frey offered a huge thanks to Ed Hall for his oversight of the Bylaws update.

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for November 20th at 1:00 p.m.

This meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Rioux, Secretary