



Harbour Town Racquet Club
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New Bern, NC 28562
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April 25, 2016
Board Meeting

LOCATION OF MEETING: Harbour Town Racquet Club House

CALL TO ORDER: President Ed Hall called the meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 1:15 p.m. In attendance were Mike See, Ed Hall, Rich Lamke, Tommaso Serra, Doreen Hyet and Kathy Rioux.

The Minutes from the January 2016 meeting were approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Membership: We added four team members to the Women's 3.0 Team. They each paid a team fee of \$50. One of the team members plans to join the club in May and inquired about applying the team fee toward the initiation fee. This was approved.

Resignations: Paul Jambor, health. Bill Harris, sickness in family. Catrina Carcich, moving.

Board Positions: All positions are filled and active.

Treasurer's Report: We are only keeping even at this point and we need to increase the dues to build up our reserves for future expenses. The club's shed is in poor condition and will need to be repaired or replaced at some point. The Board unanimously voted to increase the club's monthly dues by \$5.00 per member effective July 1st. Ed will write a letter to send out to members. We need to add more members to keep the club running efficiently.

We discussed our overhead and expenses and we are doing everything we can to manage frugally. We have core members who support the club and participate in workdays and general projects to enhance the club. In fact, Ed said we have a great group of members!

We discussed the fact that we are the ONLY standalone tennis club in New Bern. Most other area tennis clubs are part of their respective country club and receive support from the host club. We need to talk up our club and spread the word to our community about what we have to offer.

Publicity: Dan sent our club calendar to the Sun Journal in April, but nothing was published. We need to make more effort in this area. Ed will work on a poster and look into TALK Radio. Kathy suggested business cards for the club, which Mike already has. We should pass these out and distribute at various locations.

Kathy is going to follow up with the Newcomers of New Bern group to see if we can put a flyer in their welcome basket and include a coupon for a free pass; or even arrange to have someone from our club speak at one of their club meetings about the benefits of tennis.

In the past, member Pat Engeman had offered to help with publicity. Ed will talk to him or invite him to our next club meeting.

Website and Newsletter: Updates are going well. Kathy sent Mike's Bio to be posted on the website, but it is not a good photo of Mike and needs to be updated. Ed will do this in the next week or so.

Courts/General Maintenance: The clubhouse roof was replaced in March and several sheets of plywood had rotten spots that were repaired. The Ladies bathroom commode was leaking and Tommaso and Peter took on the task of determining the problem and making necessary repairs. Turns out there was a feminine hygiene product clogging the pipes. We need to post a sign in the Ladies Room about proper disposal of same. Thanks goes out to both Peter and Tommaso for dealing with this very unpleasant situation.

Landscaping: Brad Humphries spent considerable time grooming many of the shrubs and trees and accomplished significant clearing of overgrown brush under the pine trees between the entrance road and the parking lot. This was a huge undertaking for which all the members are very thankful. It was overgrown and ugly and is now cleared and looks neat and clean.

The court lighting system has been adequate when used Thursdays nights. One or two lights are out. The circuit breaker kicked out on one occasion after 30 minutes, but did not recur. The consensus is that we should hold off on evening play until daylight savings time.

USTA Teams: We have four Women's teams and one Men's team in the Spring League and two teams going to the State Championship. The 3.0 men have nine on the team but only have one team to play, which has been beleaguered with injuries and the matches have been difficult to arrange and complete. Bob is working with Sherry Strickland, our regional USTA League Coordinator to get this completed so our team can go to Greensboro. We are talking about Mixed Doubles over the summer.

Mike says it would be a "feather in our cap" if we can get 3.0 and 3.5 Mixed Doubles teams. Nonmembers will pay a fee of \$50.00 for the season and may play once per week. This does not include Team drills / clinics with Mike.

Mixed Doubles season is June 5- August 15. Match times would be Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays after 11:00 a.m. or Sundays after 1:00 p.m. Late afternoon and evening match times are also open every day and should start no later than 6:30 p.m. so that lighting is not a concern. A meeting is planned for May 9th.

EVENTS:

The Dining Out at Famous Subs was very well attended with perhaps 30 people going out!

April 26 & 27 - Neuse River Senior Games

Saturday, May 7th - Journey of Hope Fundraiser & Centurion Tournament - CANCELLED due to lack of planning and support.

Thursday, May 12 at 5:30 - Dining out at Annabelle's Restaurant at Twin Rivers Mall

June 18 - Father's Day Round Robin: Mike wants to keep it social. Doreen will make arrangements for lunch, to be announced in May. We plan to send out flyers to the area tennis clubs and post at various locations around town.

July 4th - Town of River Bend Parade - enter HTRC Float in parade: Tommaso will organize this and begin to generate interest. He talked about maybe having a trailer and a banner with our club name and logo on it. Members will ride on the trailer and throw out used tennis balls. Club members will also attend the after parade picnic in order to answer questions about our club and membership. We need more creativity and brainstorming! We will announce in the Newsletter and ask for volunteers.

NEW BUSINESS:

Twilight Leagues: Melissa Holton, a member of New Bern Golf & Country Club, contacted Mike about social tennis in the evenings among the area clubs. Mike referred her to Kathy. Our women played other clubs including Taberna, Fairfield Harbour, Emerald and NBG&CC. We played twice at each club excluding Fairfield and we hosted three evenings. This was quite popular, except among our USTA Team members because of their busy match schedules. It was agreed that it would be better to do this off-season from the USTA teams but that this a great opportunity to offer another "program" or opportunity for our members to play.

The thought process on this is evolving. Some feel that it would be good while others feel that it could hinder the growth of our club. Mike's opinion is that this would allow nonmembers to play at our club and not encourage new members to join and we should limit this to just once per month.

The other clubs expressed an interest in continuing interclub play over the summer and to include the men. Kathy will contact the other clubs and work out a reasonable schedule, with the understanding that we must charge a guest fee for clubs who are not hosting, such as Fairfield Harbour. If we do move forward, we will need a man to be the captain for our men.

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for June 3, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.

This meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Rioux, Secretary