

GV Tennis Club Special Meeting  
Minutes  
October 19, 2013

Board Members Present: Rey Otto, Marge Garneau, Don Lathrop, Brad Stillahn, Joe Frasier, Jerry LeTendre, Lou Grau, John Hadley

There were 20 members in attendance.

President Don Lathrop called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

Agendas were provided. President Lathrop noted that this was a Special board meeting and is open to the Tennis Club members. Reason for the meeting is definition/eligibility/procedures of leagues and discussion on what is the criteria for Tennis Club reservations of afternoon/Sunday courts. The board discussed this topic at the last meeting but Lou Grau and Jerry LeTendre were not in attendance.

President Lathrop asked League Coordinator, Jerry LeTendre, to explain what Leagues are.

Jerry noted that a tennis team is a group of tennis players that join together to play or practice tennis.

He stated that a League is a group of teams or a group of players who join together to play.

League Process: The league coordinator for the Tennis Club will get a captain or a captain will contact the league coordinator. Usually these leagues are by criteria like level of play or gender or both. The captains will then choose their players by ability and set up teams. If Jerry sets up a drop in league it can be set by level of play and/or gender but the difference is there is no picking of players.

Jerry noted that Leagues set up by other captains, if they choose their players, have to set up their own court time and do not get courts reserved in the afternoon. Drop-in leagues are open to all GVR members and do have reserved afternoon courts. There are some organized leagues that have reserved courts but these must be open to all GVR members who meet the criteria.

President Lathrop asked the Afternoon Court Scheduler, Lou Grau, to explain the afternoon and Sunday court scheduling system:

Lou handed out copies of the 2008 GV Tennis Club protocol for court scheduling in the afternoons/Sundays. He noted that leagues that would have played at 2:00 pm are now playing at 2:30 pm. This protocol is what he uses to schedule reserved courts in the afternoons. There are plenty of courts and plenty of open time. President Lathrop noted the survey asked if anyone had a problem getting afternoon courts and 17 out of 200 had a problem, only 1 with a serious problem.

Lou noted there are more than just leagues that get courts in the afternoon/Sunday. There are groups, clinics, drop-ins, interclub matches, USTA, and other groups that are not necessarily teams. They are treated just like a league. They reserve a court through Lou for the afternoon. The only criteria are that

they are a GVR member. Lou noted that a study done by the Tennis Club shows that the courts are only used about 50% of the time in the afternoons and that there are plenty of open courts for people to use.

President Lathrop opened the floor for discussion and questions.

Jerry LeTendre asked if we are saying a 4.0 league can be formed and you have to be a 4.0 to play, it cannot just be your friends, and it has to be open to all GVR members. He asked if this is true, how this is published and made known to tennis players.

There were questions about the new league Dick Dempsey is forming. People were asked to join; it was and is not open to all GVR tennis players. Dick said he set up a committee of 5 people to look at levels of players in GVR. He stated he originally wanted this to become a large in-house competitive team league since USTA is not providing this for people our age. Though it is set up with players who were invited to play, it is open to everyone. He noted that there will be a challenge system so people who have been over looked can still join. At this time there is no challenge system but he assured everyone there would be one.

Jon Otto asked if the drop-ins replaced the previous existing leagues. Jerry said yes. President Lathrop noted drop-ins are not leagues. Don Herron stated that the Tennis Club stopped the sign ups because the sign up day did not allow for everyone to sign up. The board then created the drop-ins. This way anyone who came to Green Valley could play. Drop-ins are more inclusive. Jerry noted that there is the daily drop-in for everyone at East Center from sun up to noon and that there are men's and women's drop-ins during the week along with a Saturday coed drop-in.

John Hadley talked about the league sign up prior to the drop in leagues and how hard it was to get into the leagues. John felt that the Tennis Club listened to member's concerns with having to call in long distance and get someone to help you sign in for these afternoon leagues. John noted that he captained the drop-in on Tuesday and in the past he filled both Desert Hills and Canoa Hills courts but that the volume has decreased and now it is unusual to fill all the Desert Hills courts. Perhaps this needs to be addressed. Jerry noted he watches the attendance and he and Lou adjust the number of courts reserved accordingly.

Diana Smit wanted to know if we are talking about the in-house leagues and other competitive leagues. She asked if there can be open registration for competitive leagues. She asked what the difference is between in-house leagues and other competitive leagues. President Lathrop noted this discussion is about in-house leagues only.

Jim Swifka asked where USTA sits. Are these different from in-house leagues? After discussion, President Lathrop noted they are different from the in-house leagues.

President Lathrop noted that in-house leagues can be competitive but are within GVR- not outside non GVR teams. He stated we are not talking about USTA or other out of area competitive team play.

Don Herron noted you don't need 3 Dempsey leagues and 3 LeTendre leagues all at the same level and all the same criteria, this causes redundancy. He asked if this is monitored. President Lathrop assured him this is watched.

Grant Alley commented that when our competitive teams play away they are given courts to play in the morning, but here because of the reservation system they are only able to play in the afternoon. The Tennis Club has always tried to allow for travel time for teams coming down here and returning home so the teams (traveling teams) were given 12:00 start times. We need to use common sense on scheduling. Traveling teams need to be able to get home before dark.

Bob Anderson stated that notice and access seems to be a problem. New people don't know about leagues or things that are happening. He had trouble finding tennis. President Lathrop noted we are working on this.

John Smit asked about a sign up league in the spring for the fall and in the fall for the winter leagues. Get leagues formed ahead of time. Advertise it, promote leagues. Bob Anderson asked about new people arriving in the fall and how would they get into a fall league with this process. Grant said if you had a captain and posted the name maybe that would work.

Chris Raymond suggested you could have the tennis club sponsor an orientation person. That person is listed and this is a person who will help them find tennis (aka, tennis ambassador). Marcia Koshollek noted that the clinic steers people to where they should be and informal contacts with people coming to the tennis courts works in the same way.

John Hadley stated- if you come to town what do you do? He said usually you go to GVR. Get a sheet of paper that has all the club names and contact numbers. Leagues should be posted at the tennis courts. John feels we don't need to have another committee/person there is plenty of opportunity. If you come in the middle of the season things are going. East center has the daily drop-in. He feels there is no need to change the informal system. Keeping Current has the information.

Carol Crothers asked the Board to identify what a league is, what is a group, how do we get on those? She feels the real issue is how I can get involved in really competitive tennis. She is now hearing that new local leagues are giving everyone an opportunity to get on the leagues - but is that really true. How do we get to go play with the better players?

Diana Smit feels people should not be invited to play on a league that gets courts reserved and these should have open registration. Everyone should be allowed to play with no picking and choosing but open to everyone at the level being played.

Groups were discussed and it was noted that if a private group forms, they need to either reserve courts in the morning or get to the open courts 10 minutes early to get afternoon court use. They do NOT get court reservations.

Kathi Skytta noted she agrees that anybody should be able to play on an in-house team/league at their rating. We are not talking about USTA.

Drop-in, quick start and clinics were added to the protocol #3 along with in-house leagues.

Lou noted that the order of preference for afternoon/Sunday court reservation are: GVR classes, clinics, drop-in leagues, USTA team practices.

After much discussion, it was decided we needed to better define group, teams, and leagues and who/what gets afternoon court reservations. It was decided that:

- Group: closed not open to all players and do not get courts reserved.
- Team: is part of a league and does not get courts reserved.
- League: open to everyone within parameters of the league as set up. Jon Otto stated that anyone who feels they fit the criteria should have the opportunity to request to be on the league and everyone agreed to this. A mechanism for them to get on the league needs to be defined by the league captain. Diana Smit noted that the captains currently decide and they have the power to put someone in the league. Dick Dempsey noted that you would have to challenge to get into his league. Diana felt that all league opportunities are not inclusive. Chris Raymond wants to see documentation on the challenge methodology. It was decided no league may be exclusive and must be open to all GV tennis players. If there is a challenge included in the league this must be identified clearly in writing and published so players know who to contact and how to challenge.

Jerry LeTendre noted that afternoon courts are given for drop-in league and in-house leagues that have the criteria identified and are open to all GVR tennis players but are limited to 6 reserved courts this also includes Sunday play since it is not a morning reservation day. Don Herron stressed that the TC needs to not allow the same type of leagues to form and the criteria needs to be clear. Jon Otto asked if the goal is to be sure leagues span all skill levels and all genders.

Carolyn Herron noted that the priority of USTA team practices and matches is middling. It was decided that morning practice can be done through the reservation system.

Diana Smit asked the definition be clearly stated to show that this is for GVR Community TC leagues, not USTA or other competitive leagues that include play from teams outside GVR. The community leagues must be open and must have a minimum of 2 courts. She thought they should allow players within 2 USTA levels. Don Herron stated that the criteria are not rigidly upheld so the better players drop off and then reform a group. To have a viable league program the captains need to uphold the criteria.

Jerry LeTendre will take charge of making sure the criterion set is enforced.

It was decided to call the in-house leagues that get afternoon/Sunday courts reserved "GVR Community Tennis Club League". These leagues must have at least 2 courts of players, must be open to all GVR tennis players within the criterion and are limited to 6 reserved courts.

Don Herron noted there are lots of Buddy groups. These Buddy Groups are private. They play in the morning under reservations. He asked if they can get afternoon or Sunday courts reserved. President Lathrop noted that no buddy groups will be given courts in the afternoon.

Discussion was held on how to identify your level of play. If you have never played USTA and do not have a ranking, how do you know if you qualify to join a league. How do they self rate. After much discussion it was decided President Lathrop would talk with Carl and see if there is a way the clinic can

do an evaluation of the level of play for a person – maybe for a small fee of \$5. Brad noted that levels could be integrated with the tennis ladder he is forming for all GV Tennis players.

President Lathrop stated that we will put together a league display at West so people will know about leagues, signup, players and standings. We will also try to get league news in the Green Valley newspaper.

President Lathrop asked if there were any other comments. There being none, he adjourned the meeting at 3:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marge Garneau  
Acting Secretary