

USTA NorCal Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
August 21, 2013
USTA NorCal Office, Alameda, California

USTA NorCal Board of Directors Present: Margie Campbell, Chris Caputo, Gordon Collins (Treasurer), Michael Cooke (President), Suzy Cossette, Christine Costamagna (Secretary), Jim Coyne, Mike Dickey (Vice President), Mark Fairchilds, Paul Kepler, Sarah Robinson, Jason Scalese, Tony Silveira (Delegate)

Absent: Andrea Norman (excused), Rosie Bareis

USTA NorCal Advisory Directors: Frank Haswell, Pam Sloan

NorCal Staff Present: Steve Leube, Executive Director; Anna Elefant, Adult Leagues Coordinator; Tamara Ramos; Jennifer Pitzen, Director of Competitive Play

Guests: Dale Russell, Chair, Adult Leagues Committee; Nigel Pugh, Chair, ROG Development Committee; Alvin Hom; Andrew Gu; Cici Bellis (and father); Randy Chen-Tse; Shari Kakiuchi, Janet Gee; Pablo Pires de Almeida

Legal Counsel: Michael Harrison

Call to Order: Noting the presence of a quorum, Michael Cooke, President, called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. The President introduced the staff and guests. He reiterated the ground rules for the meeting. Mr. Scalese read the USTA NorCal mission statement. The President then asked for public comments which there were none.

The President noted that at the last meeting, the Board recommended that Ms. Sloan be appointed as a director to fill the vacancy left by Mr. Gill. He reported that Ms. Sloan has respectfully declined the appointment.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the June 19, 2013 Board meeting were presented for approval. On motion duly made, seconded, and carried, the minutes of the June 19, 2013 meeting were unanimously approved, with minor, non-substantive changes.

Maze Cup Presentation: The President introduced Ms. Bellis, Mr. Gu and Mr. Pires de Almeida (coach) who represented NorCal in the Maze Cup. He provided a brief historical background and congratulated them on their success along with the other members of the NorCal team. Ms. Pitzen also commented on the success of the Team NorCal branding.

League Participation Awards: The President introduced Mr. Russell and Ms. Elefant to comment on the League Participation awards. Mr. Russell commented on the efforts of the League Committee to recognize players for their commitment to league play. He commented on future plans to recognize players. Mr. Russell then introduced the following players for reaching league participation milestones: Randy Chen-Tse of Alamo (700 matches), Shari Kakiuchi of Pleasanton (600 matches), and Janet Gee of El Sobrante (600 matches).

The President and directors also recognized the success of a number of other NorCal juniors.

After the presentations, the guests were excused from the meeting.

Executive Director Report: Mr. Leube provided an overview of his report, a copy of which was provided in the meeting material. He noted that NorCal was #2 in overall in membership growth and #2 in junior growth. He commented on the Bank of the West Kid's Day and the award for Bard Rickey. He commented on the NorCal Hall of Fame ceremony and recognized Ms. Ramos for her contributions. He reported on the partnership opportunities with the Sacramento Capitals. He noted that NorCal received \$50,000 for facility fundings for 4 sites. He concluded by recognizing the hard work of staff on all of the NorCal activities and programs.

President Report: The President provided his report to the Board. In addition to Mr. Leube's comments, he commented on the recent junior success including the Gar Glenny Cup and Mackenzie McDonald's qualification into an ATP Master's event. He provided a brief overview of national issues, including voting strength and membership retention.

Mr. Pugh joined the meeting.

Delegate Report: The Chairman called upon Mr. Silveira to provide the Delegate's report. Referring to the report in the meeting material, Mr. Silveira began by commenting on the US Open expansion to increase viewing and facilities. He commented on the progress of the Membership Innovation Study Group. He also commented on the status of the issues surrounding the Mid-Atlantic section.

Mr. Silveira then reviewed the 3 amendments to the USTA regulations (recovery rule, Red/Orange/Green ball for adults, and mixed doubles national rankings) that are to be voted on at the USTA Semi-Annual Meeting in New York. After a brief discussion, the Board, via a straw vote, unanimously supported the amendments as presented.

ROG Pathway Update: The President referred the directors to the Junior Development Pathway ("Pathway") handout included in the meeting material. Mr. Pugh reviewed the changes, specifically player options within the Pathway and the deadline date of August 31, 2013 to declare, to the pathway that was approved by the Board in October 2012. Ms. Campbell expressed concerns with an August 31 declaration deadline as well as the \$35 event price. Mr. Pugh addressed the issues concerning the August 31 date noting that there has been an extensive amount of marketing and education provided and that only a small minority of new players are affected by not declaring by September 1. He noted that the Pathway remains the same but that the flexibility within the structure has changed. He further noted that existing players are grandfathered into the Pathway. He also noted that the goal of the pathway is to include all players in USTA programming. The Board briefly discussed about how to get non-sanctioned play into the Pathway.

Thereafter, a motion was duly made and seconded to approve the Pathway as presented which was rejected – 5 in favor, 6 opposed, 0 abstentions. Mr. Scalese offered a counterproposal (which he ultimately withdrew) to implement the Pathway as of January 1, 2014, rather than August 31. A discussion ensued concerning the opportunities and availability of the Pathway. It was suggested to defer a decision on the Pathway until the next Board meeting during which time the directors could pose questions/issues to the ROG Development Committee prior to the October decision by the Board. Mr.

Leube noted that with the vote taken, there is no clarity around the Pathway leaving nothing to communicate to the players. He noted that currently the original pathway approved in October 2012 was in place with an August 31 deadline date. The Board unanimously approved the rescission of the previous motion concerning the approval of the Pathway.

The President recommended a bifurcated vote to separate approval and implementation of the Pathway to which the Board agreed. A motion was duly made and seconded to approve the Pathway which was approved – 7 in favor, 5 opposed, 0 abstentions. A motion was duly made and seconded to implement the approved Pathway as of September 1, 2013 which was rejected - 4 in favor, 8 opposed, 0 abstentions. A motion then was duly made and seconded to implement the approved Pathway as of January 1, 2014 which was approved - 6 in favor, 5 opposed, 0 abstentions.

Administrative Remedy for Penalty Points: The President referred the Board to the proposed changes to the administrative remedies for penalty points. He reviewed the changes noting that they allow for the correction of administrative errors. Ms. Cossette gave examples of why the changes are necessary. Thereafter, on motion duly made by Mr. Silveira and seconded by Ms. Costamagna, the Board approved the proposed changes (attached as Exhibit A) – 12 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

Treasurer Report: The Chairman called upon Mr. Collins to provide a report covering NorCal's financial status. Mr. Collins noted that NorCal was financially sound and discussed the timing of revenue and expenditures hitting various line items. Mr. Dickey was asked to briefly explain the NorCal budgeting process, including timing.

Committee Decisions: The President noted that the Committee decisions were provided in the meeting material. Ms. Campbell inquired about the Collegiate Varsity Committee's request of up to \$4,000 for the ITA Summer Circuit tournaments. Mr. Dickey noted that the Budget Committee has not had a chance to review because of the timing of the request. Ms. Pitzen noted that this was first time there was an ITA Summer Circuit in NorCal. After discussion, on motion duly made by the President and seconded by Mr. Dickey, the Board approved the conditional approval of the request after it has been reviewed and approved by the Budget Committee - 12 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions. The President asked that the Budget Committee process be clarified.

Mr. Scalse inquired about the Sanction and Schedule Committee's decision to sanction concurrent tournaments. Ms. Cossette provided an explanation why the Moraga Open and Comerica Bank Cal Open were approved for the same date blocks.

Unfinished Business: The President asked Mr. Fairchilds and Mr. Kepler to provide an update at the next meeting concerning the \$500,000 expenditure for court renovations. The President also commented on the longevity and history of the SAP Open and it was asked whether the name could be bestowed on a NorCal tournament.

New Business: The President requested an excused absence for Ms. Norman who acting as the Tournament Director for the 1st USTA National Doubles Tournament. The Board unanimously approved the request. Mr. Silveira also asked whether a form letter could be drafted to acknowledge results of players within the NorCal.

It was also noted that the September Board meeting was being cancelled.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Costamagna
Secretary