

## **Abilene Tennis Association** Board Meeting – November 4, 2015

Members present: Julie Beckham, Rich Bryan, Rick Meyers, Susan Bowles, Allen Prachyl, Chris Redman, Robyn Wertheim, and Mary Noel Corn, Also Amanda Friday

Beverly Guthrie was present by phone to give her report.

### **Business**

The board approved the minutes of the August 31, 2015. Motion by Sheila and all Approved

### **President – Rick Meyers**

JTC had some very important changes .

- 1) ZATs will now be called Challengers. The term ZAT (Zone Advancement Tournament) is no longer valid since we don't require players to play within their zone. The term Challenger is taken from the professional tour's lower level pro tournaments. It's just a name change.
- 2) A Challenger player will now be able to play and receive qualifying points in more than one Challenger per month. Virtually all of the Challengers will be played in the first two weekends of the month so very seldom (if ever) will someone be able to play in 3 Challengers in one month. Initially orange and green ball players will NOT be allowed to earn credits in more than two tournaments per month.
- 3) We will also offer 24 1-Day Challengers (called Challenger 1-Days) distributed geographically across the state. The matches will be no-add short sets with a tiebreak in lieu of the 3rd set. The points table will award 16 qualifying points to the winner, 8 to the finalist and on down. We know that these events will not necessarily attract the best players that are trying to accumulate points to qualify. It will be more for the grass root players who don't want to have a hotel night. Initially these tournaments will NOT offer orange and green ball events.
- 4) Currently in our ZATs a TD is not allowed to combine genders in the orange and green ball events. Now they will have that ability. For example, if there is only one orange ball girl and two orange ball boys the TD will combine the draws so everyone gets two matches.
- 5) Our pathway of moving from orange to green and from green to yellow will change. The USTA wants to "align" the sections so Amanda Shaw was very instrumental in devising a new pathway system that the entire country will handle 10U. Each section has 4 choices to choose from and implement. We chose the option that most closely resembled our current system. Every player in the country will have to have to accumulate 20 Stars and Trophies to progress to their next level according to the option the Section chooses. The option that we chose is as follows: A player earns 2 Stars for each Challenger that they play. In addition, a player will receive 2 Trophies if they win the tournament and 1 Trophy if they reach the finals. So the winner of the draw will receive 2 Stars and 2 Trophies for a total of 4 credits toward their 20 required credits. The finalist will receive 3 credits. Before January 1st Amanda will go through 4 years of tournament results and "grandfather" every player into the new system. So if a players currently has played in 4 orange ball tournaments and won 1 of them they will start 2016 with 10 Stars and Trophies. I think that we are going to refer to these credits as Combined Starts and Trophies.
- 6) Players will receive 3 Stars for competing in a JTT season starting in 2016.

Rick also brought up the Sports Expo, there was a motion to support, and Sheila would pay. All approved.

### **Treasurer's Report - Sheila**

Sheila gave report, and Julie Beckham made a motion to approve, all Approved

### **Vice-President – Rich Bryan/Tournament Chair**

Tournament Committee Report

Submitted ethnicity report for committee members

Spoke to USTA about our request for all our events for 2016 (said all were approved so far and final approval should be out soon)

Emailed local coaches to have them email/text all players as reminder for Nov Classic

\*\*\*noticed ACC having tennis Club Championships that same weekend--we'll need to Coordinate with them on our future events so we don't have these conflicts in future

Procured sites for Dec Champs (AHS, CHS, Rose Park & ACU) awaiting WHS & McMurry

Finalizing details for Friday night Champs kickoff at FW pavilion--still have \$100 donated from Debi Schultz for raffle/door prize (will probably split that up into 4 or 5 academy cards)

Tasked committee members with Robyn's help to get some sponsors for purchase of 200 to 300 t-shirts for kids in Dec CMZ

\*\*\*Results so far pending a few finalizations

- Lawrence Hall \$250
- First Financial Bank \$250
- Barnett and Hill \$200
- JH Strain \$200
- Bontke Bros TBD

Recap of Tournaments for 2015

- o ZAT March 7-8 132 participants/40 from local area
- o Classic March 21-22 36 total entries
- o ZAT May 2-3 142 participants/42 from Abilene
- o 12's & 14's Super Champs July 18-20 231 signed up/223 participants
- o Classic Aug 1-2 56 entries
- o Champs August 8-9 & 10u participation credit 359 entries
- o Adult Open 100 point – Oct 9-11 21 entries/13 from Abilene
- o Classic Nov 21-22 (Deadline 15 Nov) 8 signed up so far
- o Champs – December 12-13 (Deadline 29 Nov) 7 signed up so far

### **Officials/Referees – Allen Prachyl:**

The official committee report= 9 different umpires worked the 4 A and the 6 A Regional Tennis Tournament. All of the umpires did a great job adjusting their schedules with the bad weather we had all day Friday. Matches that would have lasted 2 hours took 4 plus hours on limited indoor court space. 3 of the umpires did not finish until 11:00 pm. On Saturday we had an 1 1/2 hour delay because of wet courts, but the weather finally cleared and we finished the 6 a regional final at 7 pm. We received good reports from all the coaches. Most cities would not have been able to finish the tournament. Thanks go out to ACU, ACC, and FWO for letting us use their facilities.

UIL Regional 4A & 6A tournaments will be in Abilene. Starting in January, the official certification will be online. The December Officials Meeting will be December 12-13 to decide about on court training also.

Allen, would like to have school coaches go to training. Also, take kids to tournaments who can't afford group lessons.

### **Junior Tennis Development– Julie Beckham:**

- JTT Texas: assisted USTA Texas with JTT ALC training at the USTA CDW Event in San Antonio Oct 16-18. New JTT Coordinator at USTA Texas is Veronica Nichols also doing NJTL Coordinator job.

- Uspta junior team abilene: 2015, competed at Newk's in Sept - 9 teams attended, down from 12 and was 16 five years ago. For our highest ranked ZAT players & JTT participants for all G's & B's age divisions. Abilene

Team Captains this year were Kevin Crousen & Beverly Guthrie. Thanks to ATA for paying for the team's 24 tshirts for players, chaperones and captains. Kids had a great time.

- JTT leagues Abilene: Fall 2015 leagues end this weekend. Six teams: 18uAdv, 14uAdv, 18Int, 14uInt, 12uInt, 10uG will be attending State Sectionals in Midland over Nov 13-15 weekend.

- ATA Classic Tourneys: Will send emails to all JTT families and out of town tennis groups about the upcoming JTT league and Nov Jr. Classic tourney on Nov 21 in Abilene, deadline for registration is

Nov 15th.

Melinda Roberson will be JTT Coordinator in the Spring 2016. Her position will be a PT paid position for Spring & Fall Seasons reporting to the ATA Jr Tennis Development Committee

- Abilene Dec CMZ - Will host player/ family kickoff event with snacks and gift card drawing at Fairway on Friday in Dec before tournament play on Saturday.

- West Texas Tournament Swing for 2016: collaborating with CTAs across West Texas to coordinate upcoming USTA Challenger and Classic sanctioned events to better support our West Texas Junior Tennis players. Four members of JTA committee will attend TD training in Austin on Nov 18th.

Julie suggested that gifts be given to Sean, Gary & Bree at the Country Club & Fairway for all their help during 4A & 6A Tournaments.

Also, a new ATA Logo was presented and approved.

#### **USTA Tournament Director for Abilene - Chris Redman**

Nothing to report

#### **Tennis Events Committee – Mary Noel Corn:**

Mary Noel has contacted ACU event director, Tina Kincaid about renting the Teague Center on Wed. May 4th, 2016. She is checking their schedule and will get back to me sometime this week. The cost of the rental is \$1730.00 and that includes all tables, chairs, tablecloths, any color napkins we choose, sound system, stage, podium, projector and screen, audio and plants. With the cost increase at the Civic Center it would cost us \$2262.00 this year. We will be saving \$532. We are required to use Aramark for the food if we decide to rent their facility.

She has also contacted the past committee members and talked to new ones. After last years' experience, I have decided to not have senior parents on the committee. They had a hard time doing their jobs and dealing with senior obligations. For those committee members that have juniors, Mary Noel has asked them to think of someone who can shadow them so they can transition into the position next year.

Mary Noel asked Christi Adkins to step into her position next year so she can focus on Emly's senior year. She has agreed to do so. Mary Noel has agreed to be here to put together the senior slideshow for the future.

#### **Community & Marketing - Robyn Wertheim**

Prepared Health Index and Grant Applications

#### **Secretary – Beverly Guthrie**

After discussing with Chris Redman regarding the nominating committee, it was decided to send out email request to the current board members for suggestions for new board members. Amanda Friday sent an email, reminding us that:

“If you're making a lot of additions/changes, be mindful that any paid position shouldn't be a board member. i.e. any League Coordinator, Tournament Director. They should serve as advisors and still attend meetings, give input/reports, but answer and work with ideally a committee headed by board members. This is sometimes very hard in our smaller communities, but should be avoided if at all possible. “

In light of this email, phone calls have been made to Chris Redman, Susan Bowles and Allen Prachyl regarding whether, they want to stay on the board as a volunteer, or continue in their paid capacities. All chose to stay on in their paid capacities.

Amanda Friday suggested we have an advisory board, which would consist of past board members, whose experience is very important for the growth of the ATA board and the community. Therefore, Allen Prachyl (representing Officials), Chris Redman (representing Rose Park and a TD), Susan Bowles (representing Adult Leagues), along with Amanda Friday (representing USTA), will be on our Advisory Board, and continue to come to board meetings, submit reports, and be advisors to the needs that the ATA may have. Robyn Wertheim (representing Community Development) asked to rotate off the board due to her schedule, but would also like to serve on the Advisory Board. Karen Wilkins will also rotate off.

The following people were nominated to come onto the board starting January 2016:

Christy Adkins – replacing Mary Noel Corn as the Chairman of The Volunteer/ Annual Tennis Banquet Committee  
Jimmy Schaeffer – replacing Chris Redman as the Chairman of The Nominating/ ATA Scholarship Committee  
Kevin Crousen – replacing Allen Prachyl as the Chairman of The Officials & Referees Committee  
Rich Bryan has agreed to be the Chairman of the Adult League and Adult Tournaments Committee  
Youth Tournaments will be manage by Junior Tennis Committee

Beverly agreed to Chair the Community Tennis Development & Marketing.

A Motion was made by Sheila Kidd and seconded by Mary Noel to accept the Three Nominees, Christy Adkins, Jimmy Schaeffer & Kevin Crousen to serve as new board members and all updated responsibilities to existing board members and committees including the removal of a stand-alone tournament committee, all approved

A motion was made by Mary Noel for the current Executive Committee to continue to be the same with Rick Meyers as President, Rich Bryan as Vice President, Sheila Kidd as Treasurer, and Beverly Guthrie as Secretary, Julie Beckham seconded it.

A Motion was made by Beverly Guthrie to create a current Advisory Board consisting of Allen Prachyl, Chris Redman, Susan Bowles, Robyn Wertheim and Amanda Friday, Julie Beckham Seconded it and all approved.

### **Amanda Friday Report**

She made several visits today. Tennis needs to get into the schools. Maybe hold some in-service events.

Youthtennis.com - everything is being pushed to encourage pros to use those websites.

USTA.com/tennis near me

West Texas Tennis Association tennis made a big Calendar for all events in town. Making Challengers & tournaments more of an “event” keep things fun.