

Abilene Tennis Association Board Meeting – March 28, 2016

Members present: Rich Bryan, Beverly Guthrie, Christy Adkins, Julie Beckham, Kevin Crousen, Jimmy Schaeffer and Mary Noel Corn,

Rick Meyers and Sheila Kidd were not present

Guests were: Chris Redman & Adam Ewing

Business

The board approved the minutes of the February 22, 2016. Motion by Kevin, Mary Noel seconded and all Approved

President – Rick Meyers

Rick was out of town, no report

Treasurer's Report - Sheila

Sheila was still out; Beverly just gave amounts in the bank. Julie Beckham asked about 990, or 990z, explained until we finish our 501c3, we do not turn one in.

Vice-President – Rich Bryan/Adult League Committee Chair

Susan Clark has updated the adult tab on the ATA website. It is now up and running.

Women's 18 & over is going to start April 12 instead of April 5 and the deadline for rosters has been extended from March 27 to April 3. We are still struggling to get enough players to commit for multiple teams at each level.

40 and over mixed just finished up with 7.0 & 8.0 leagues. Headed to sectionals in San Antonio starting in June.

40 & over 3.0 ladies league just finished with champion going to sectionals in September.

40 & over 3.5 ladies finished as well but waiting to see if they are going to have to go to QT in May, if not they will also go to sectionals.

40 & over 4.0 ladies only had 1 team so waiting to hear back to see if they have to do QT.

Men's over 40 has a 4.5 plus team that will be playing against San Angelo in May to determine who goes to Sectionals in September.

Men's adult league on Wednesday night a huge success with 20 participants and several other standby/subs.

Next league will be starting up on Wednesday April 6th.

As soon as spring high school season is over, I will be getting with coaches to get contact info of seniors to see if interested in pursuing future adult events.

Still need to get over to Lowes to get various blowers for us to evaluate & purchase for sites

Secured McMurry, ACU & HSU free summer tennis camps. Will get with Cheryl Priddy to get door prize certificates printed & signed by the coaches with their dates prior to ATA banquet

Adam Ewing, also gave his report regarding Men's Leagues.

Tennis Events Committee – Mary Noel Corn & Christy Adkins

We are in the process of collecting sponsorships that are due April 15th.

Met with Jennifer Ellison at ACU Teague Center last Thursday to pay the \$400 deposit and do a walk through to answer questions.

We decided on a baked potato bar with several salads and a dessert station with assortment of cookies and pound cake with fresh berries.

I'm also working on the senior slideshow by contacting parents and getting their pictures.

Colby Haught wants to say thank you to everyone for giving their family support through prayers and financially over the past year-I may have him do the opening prayer instead of a senior.

Shellie has the tickets ready to take to the schools and has already emailed the coaches giving them info about the banquet.

We have to build a stand made of pvc to hang the backdrop for photos since Teague center won't let you attach anything to the walls. The sponsor banner will hang in front of the entrance.

Door prizes are being contributed by Rose Park, numerous pros offering lessons, camps and taco bell cards; JTT is giving rackets, bags and accessories.

Beverly told Mary Noel that she picked up 400 gift certificates in the amount of \$5 from Taco Bell to be used at the ATA banquet

In order to ask for US Open tickets I need help with a letter telling them what ATA has done over the past few years for junior tennis in our area-Beverly has agreed to help me with that. We will sell raffle tickets up until closer to the Open in order to raise more money if we get them!!

Discussion on the US Open Application, suggestions on how the money would be spent raised by the sale of the raffle tickets if we received. \$1500 will be used to help pay for the \$500 gift card and the airfare for 2 people. The board discussed the need in the middle schools. Therefore, it was proposed that in the Fall of 2016, and Spring of 2017, 20 middle school kids in each season, will be have the opportunity to get a scholarship to participate in a group once a week at Rose Park. In addition, it was proposed that ATA furnish the registration to kids who want to participate in Abilene's 3 Classic tournaments and 2 Challenger tournaments. ATA will scholarship up to 100 participants who want to register for one of these 5 tournaments. A motion was made by Christy Adkins, and Seconded by Jimmy Schaeffer that these two proposals be accepted. All approved.

Junior Tennis Development- Julie Beckham:

Abilene USTA Tournaments - Challengers/CMZ/SCMZ/Open Classics

Friday night Kickoff event at Rose Park TC on March 4th for our March Challenger Tourney went well. Snacks and drinks were provided and several adults representing ATA welcomed players and families to Abilene for the tournament. Chris and Adam hit with players and provided a prize court. TShirts for Challenger provided to each tourney player. Next Challenger Tourney in May.

West Texas Junior Tournament Swing for 2016: collaborating with CTAs across West Texas to coordinate upcoming USTA Open-level sanctioned events to better support our West Texas Junior Tennis players. Our Abilene Classics are in February, July, and Nov/Dec for 2016.

JTT leagues Abilene: Spring league play has begun. League play will end at the end of April. JTT State Spring Sectionals will be May 26-28 in Tyler, Tx. Abilene should have 4-6 teams going to Sectionals.

USTA Texas: USTA JTT Fall Sectionals will be in Abilene Nov 11-13. Starting next year JTT sectionals will be at Newks for Spring again every year. And USTA Texas will bid out Summer and Fall sectionals only.

Awards - ATA Banquet: Nominations for the Rick Meyers "Passion for Tennis" Award are being accepted anytime this Spring. This is for a person who has given a great deal to Junior Tennis over the years. Please send emails to AbileneJTT@gmail.com with any deserving candidate and information. Also two Junior Tennis Scholarships for \$500 will be given to graduating Seniors from area high schools. Applications will be available at Rose Park Tennis Center and due by the end of April, 2016.

USPTA Junior Team Abilene 2016: USPTA Pros from Austin, Texas have taken over this tournament at Newks. Deadline for deposit to secure 2016 Team spot is June 10, 2016.

Rich Bryan asked about JTT Sectionals to be held in Abilene in August, regarding how many courts would be needed for this tournament. Julie said that USTA Texas knows they need to contact the coaches for the courts. Also discussed that the Abilene Classic is December 17, instead of November.

Tournament Committee Report – Julie Beckham/Beverly Guthrie

Members – Julie Beckham, Beverly Guthrie, Kevin Crousen, Diana Flanagan, Jamie Miers, Renee Long

- raised \$7,000 for our 2016 junior tournament shirts for challengers, cmzs, scmzs
- communicated with the ACVB to provide us with an additional \$200 for our 5 tourneys for prizes and snacks, food for party & sites
- organized and supported two pre-tourney kickoff parties for players & families
- created Tournament responsibilities 'draft' for ATA resp and TD resp (still working on)
- reviewed and discussed tournament 'costs' and income and discussed ways for ATA and the junior tennis community to benefit
- reviewed and discussed the Abilene tournament schedule for the benefit of all Abilene Junior Players
- emailed West Texas Junior Tennis colleagues concerning our Abilene Junior Classics and working on a West Texas Tournament Circuit

Shirt designs for all three tournaments are complete and ready to print a week before each Challenger, CMZ, and Scmz this year. Shirts will be delivered to Chris at Rose Park. The ACVB will drop off goodie bags and hotel forms before each tournament to Rose Park

Sanction forms for our Junior Tournaments for 2017 will be ready in July from USTA Texas and we will need to get these completed by August 1st.

The committee makes the following recommendation:

- 1) The fees for all tournaments have been raised to the maximum level. The Tournament Committee recommends taking a \$5 Tournament enhancement fee from the tournament income to be used for the Kickoff parties, and any other Tournament needs (ie Grand Slam if we receive it). After discussion, A motion was made by Beverly and seconded by Rich, all approved.
- 2) The balls that have been purchased for the tournaments, and used during the tournaments be donated to the middle schools. The balls that are used at a High School site will be donated to that site for the school. After discussion that all middle school coaches will be notified to come pick up balls after a tournament if they want, We talked about purchasing a couple of cases of balls to give to each of the middle schools. We will revisit this suggestion of purchasing new balls at the next meeting. Beverly made the motion and Rich Seconded, all approved.

Officials/Referees – Kevin Crousen:

Kevin stated that officials training are now done online. He has to meet with Allen to get w/officials

Scholarship Committee – Jimmy Schaeffer:

He will take scholarship applications to the four high schools and the seniors of JTT. They will be returned to Rose Park.

Next meeting will be April 25, 2016

Adjourned at 8:28