

## **Abilene Tennis Association** Board Meeting –February 27, 2017

Members present: Beverly Guthrie, Mary Noel Corn, Julie Beckham, Sheila Kidd, and Kevin Crousen

Advisory Board Present: Rick Meyers

Members unable to attend: Lydia Couch, Jamie Miers, Jimmy Schaeffer

### **Business**

January 22, 2017 Minutes were approved. Julie made the motion and Sheila seconded. All approved

### **President – Kevin Crousen**

Kevin Crousen will be getting the blower's for Abilene High and Cooper that were voted on in April of 2016. He also made the motion to ask Brent Albarez if Wylie High School would like to have one. Sheila seconded the motion and all approved.

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

Sheila gave the financial report and said that she would have the 501C 3 Information to Davis Kinard by the end of February. Beverly made a motion to approve treasurer's report and Julie seconded it and all approved. Sheila, also gave her resignation. She said she would get everything together and get to Beverly and be available to help make this transition run smoothly

### **Secretary's Report/ Community Grants – Beverly Guthrie**

Beverly brought up the discussion again of the ATA having a debit/credit card again because of the need to make purchases for ATA, purchases for the schools, and reserving hotels for tournaments. Beverly made the motion to get a debit card on the ATA bank account, Mary Noel seconded and all approved.

Amanda Friday, sent a flyer for a PE/after school Tennis workshop that she wanted us to approved. Kevin made the motion to approve and Mary Noel seconded. All approved.

We received a Community Grant Request from Craig and Mann Middle Schools for equipment. The Board voted to give each of the five High Schools (Abilene High, Wylie High, Cooper High, ACS High, Jim Ned High) \$1000 to be used for needs or wants they may have but a grant application has to be filled out. The Board voted to give each of the 7 middle schools (Craig, Mann, Madison, Clack, Wylie, ACS, and Jim Ned) \$500 to be used for needs or wants they may have, but a grant application has to be filled out. Cash will not be given unless it is for a reimbursement for an order. These applications will be reviewed at the next board meeting upon receipt. Beverly made the motion, Kevin seconded, all approved. This grant has to be turned in by September 15, 2017. Also Approved a \$2,500 for Community (ie training)

### **Adult League Committee Chair - Lydia Couch**

The Adult League (AL) Committee had its first meeting for the 2017 season on Saturday, February 18, 2017.

Attendees:

Lydia Couch, Committee Chair

Susan Clark, Abilene USTA Coordinator for Ladies 18 & Over and Mixed 18 & Over

Karen Wilkins, Abilene USTA Coordinator for Ladies 40 & Over, Mixed 40 & Over, and Men 18/40 & Over

### **Discussion topics:**

- Followed up request from ACVB for volunteers for Grand Slam. Karen and Susan mentioned they were told by ACVB that it is too early to ask for volunteers. Suggested they go ahead and send a message out because people will begin making summer plans for vacations and camps if they haven't already.

- Upcoming sectionals for Ladies, Men and Mixed leagues (see separate reports from coordinators below)
- Obtaining list of registered USTA players from Abilene area to provide to committee for planning purposes
- Opportunities to generate interest in tennis in the Abilene and surrounding community. Suggestions:
  - o Fall Adult mixer at Rose Park open to all levels – offer red ball for beginners and matches for other . Prizes offered for 1st-3rd places – perhaps from local restaurants or vendors. Have food trucks come and have alcohol in coolers.
  - o Reach out to Dyess community – Stacey Yates would be a good contact. Learn more about their tennis activities and how we can get them interested in participating in Abilene tennis.
  - o Reach out to local college players that are not on varsity teams – maybe club or intramural players. Who can help? Q: How can we maintain the connection when they leave for summer?
  - o Parents of JTT kids might be interested in playing tennis. Ask Julie about sending an email to them.
- Recruiting other members for tennis committee
  - o Valerie Giles has agreed – 2.5/3.0 ladies player
  - o Need others
- Future meetings will be planned on an ad hoc basis but at a minimum will take place quarterly.

### **Coordinator reports**

- **Susan Clark, email on 2/22:**
  - o Abilene was represented at 2017 Tri-level tournament at the Kingwood Country Club February 10-12. Only one 3.5-4.5 team participated (6 players). Competition was extremely tough but all players had a great time.
  - o We have started our local 2017 leagues.
  - o I am still waiting for accounting detail from 2016 to close out league coordinator payments and obtain of money still in the account for adult tennis. When we have this information, the coordinators and league representative can discuss how to best spend the money to promote Abilene Adult Tennis.
  - o We will be working hard to make sure the Mixed 18 & Over Sectionals tournament in Abilene October 6- will be a great experience in an effort to win future bids for adult tournaments.
  - o Provided these reports: Player's List and Schedule
- **Karen Wilkins, email on 2/24:**
  - o The 8.0 mixed are finishing up their matches this week. Nancy Hildebrand's team will be going to sectionals the first weekend in June.
  - o The deciding match for the 7.0 mixed will happen tomorrow morning at 9:30. The winning team will go on to sectionals.
  - o 40 and over doubles will soon be underway, starting the second week of March. We have 2 teams at the 3.0 ladies level and the 3.5 ladies level. The 4.0 ladies will go straight to the QT in May.
  - o 4.0 men are working on putting a team together to go to the QT, as well. With the deadline being April 15, they still have a little time left to gather more men.
  - o For the last couple of years the 4.5 men have played Midland to qualify for sectionals. They are in the process of doing the same thing again.
  - o 40 and over league is scheduled for 3/7 - 3/28 at which time the 18 and over league will start.
- Susan Bowles – no report received

### **Volunteer – Beverly Guthrie**

No Report at the time

### **Banquets Events Committee – Mary Noel Corn**

We had a meeting Sunday Feb. 12th with our new committee members.  
We now have 3 parent representatives from AHS, CHS and WHS.

New members are Candy Scarborough(sponsorship), Robyn Morris(door prizes/donations), Sherry Statler(co chair event) and Stephanie Tollison(decorations), along with returning members Shellie Smyser, Muffy Watson, Courtney Edwards and Libby McCurley.

We voted to have Rick Meyers emcee the event one last time.

We talked about giving a \$5 discount ticket to any player from the jr high schools. These tickets will only be sold at the schools and only to the player-family members will still be \$10.

We are going to ask each high school tennis team to donate some t shirts that can be given as door prizes.

Wilson will be donating over \$500 in door prizes this year! Robyn Morris is in charge of door prizes/in kind donations.

Candy Scarborough is already working hard on sponsorships!

Sherri Statler is going to be our Cooper parent representative and co chair the banquet with me.

We are going to reach out to JTT kids and invite them to the banquet. We'll have them stand when Julie speaks about JTT to recognize them at the beginning of the banquet so they can leave early if they need to get home.

Beverly made the motion to sell \$5 discount tickets to players from the jr. high schools, Sheila seconded and the board approved.

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

- Abilene USTA Tournaments - Abilene has received 10 USTA sanctioned tourneys for 2017. ATA volunteers are needed for each tourney to help at sites - hand out ATA player shirts & gifts and help site director, please sign up to help at a few tourneys each year. We have new Boards for all Tournament Sites and all required USTA procedures for Tournaments are being followed. Next tourneys for this year are in our Challengers in March & May.
- West Texas Junior Tournament Swing: 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 for 2017 are in January, June, July, and Dec for 2017. Hopefully, many Abilene players will continue attending most of our West Texas neighbor tournaments each month. In addition, we are creating a West Texas UTR play day format for once per month for one day of Sunday play for Advanced players. Working with Eric Huntley/Lubbock, Kevin Collins/ San Angelo and Bobby Hagerman/ Wichita Falls on this.
- JTT leagues Abilene: Spring Season first Sunday of play was yesterday. Int/ Beg #'s are up. No Advanced this season due to change in NTRP levels. New 12u Green League will attend sectionals this spring. We are discussing having a West Texas Regional Tourney for Adv levels. Will include Lubbock, WF, San Angelo, Midland/Odessa, and Amarillo.
- ATA Banquet: New for 2017. By signing our ATA ball contract with Wilson, they will help JTA support the ATA banquet with racquets & prizes this year.
- USTA Texas: Attended Semi-Annual Meeting this past weekend in Marble Falls. We have ATA representation on USTA Texas committees. If you are interested in volunteering to help with Grand Slam in June, contact Debi Schultz.
- USPTA Junior Team Abilene 2016 to Newks: Team commitment from Abilene due in April, deposit due in May. Abilene needs a team captain. Jenny Gray from Austin will be Tournament Director in 2017 again.

#### **Officials/Referees – Kevin Crousen:**

There was not a meeting of the referee/officials' committee last month. Kevin spoke with Bob Grodey and Tom Garrett at the January Classic. They had no issues or concerns they felt needed to be addressed. They did like the new pay scale which was implemented for our 2017 junior tournaments. Kevin will try to get with Allen when he is free to see if there are any changes or updates they need to be concerned about.

### **Marketing & Communications Committee – Jamie Miers**

Committee Chair – Jamie Miers; Members – Beverly Guthrie, Stacey Yates, working on others to join

Our Committee met on February 21st to discuss Sponsors for our 2017 Tournament Tshirts. Sponsors had been emailed and the 2017 Sponsors for our Tournament Shirts are as follows:

Davis Kinard & Company  
Clinical and Forensic Counseling  
Abilene Convention and Visitors Bureau  
Lawrence Hall Chevrolet  
First Financial Bank  
J. H. Strain & Sons, Inc.  
Bontke Brothers  
Neurosurgery  
Rose Park Tennis Center  
D1 Sports  
COTTER AND NEFF, CPA'S  
Condley and Company LLC  
Beckham Investments  
Junior Team Abilene  
Abilene Tennis Association

Discussion was also made that we give towels for our Junior Opens, to encourage the participation.

Next year, not do T-shirts, but something else and rotate ever couple of years.

We also talked about getting Sponsors for our Tournament meals, which we determined we would need approximately 150 meals over the course of the next 9 tournaments; Hopefully, beginning at our March Challenger. Beverly Guthrie will be meeting with Casey Kilborn on Thursday, March 2nd, at 9:30. Casey is the General Manager of the Jason's Deli on the North Side. We are hoping they will underwrite in-kind the food for these tournaments.

If Jason Deli will not underwrite the meals, or just a portion of them, Stacey, Jamie and Beverly will be contacting other restaurants to help underwrite the meals.

Jamie will be contacting the Whitten's to see if they will provide 2 to 3 comped rooms for our upcoming tournaments. We will be them on our tournament website as the host hotel. Until we can get our 501C3 established, we will not be able to get a corporate sponsorship by the other hotels.

The balls were distributed to the 7 middle schools the week after our January meeting. We are waiting for a picture of Julie for ACS. They were very excited to have them. In fact, the High Schools were upset they did not get balls. So we as a committee would like to make a recommendation that we deliver one case of balls to each of the 5 high schools. Beverly made the motion, Kevin Seconded and all approved.

### **Scholarship/Nominating Committee – Jimmy Schaeffer:**

No Committee meeting

Next meeting will be March 27, 2017 at 6:30

Adjourned at 8:30