

**MINUTES OF THE CAPE FEAR PICKLEBALL CLUB**  
**GENERAL MEETING**  
**NOVEMBER 1, 2017**

The General Meeting of the Cape Fear Pickleball Club was held on November 1<sup>st</sup> at 7 pm at the Inland Greens Clubhouse. Having 48 people present, including all Board Members, attendance was sufficient to hold the election for five (5) open Board Positions.

The positions and the officers who were elected unanimously to serve effective January 1, 2018 were:

- President – Bill Bradford
- Treasurer – Jane Klippel
- Director of Training – Joe Reina
- Director of Social Events – Feri Nejad
- Director of Membership – Cindy Dovel and Grace Gilligan (ran as a tandem to serve as Co-Directors)

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

- In accordance with the Club's By-Laws, the Club must carry liability insurance. In 2016, our expense for the insurance was \$750. We were successful in identifying an alternative carrier for the insurance in 2017 which reduced our expense to \$405.
- The Club website continued to be maintained and upgraded well. Thanks to Harry Marriner for his excellent work.
- Emily Martinelli will take over responsibility for maintaining and improving the Club's Facebook page.
- New courts at Ashley High School were installed. The Club added the storage box and nets. These courts have lights for play at night.
- Equipment continued to be provided at all locations.
- We continue to look for new locations. We are working with the Parks and Recreation Department at the City of Wilmington. There will be new permanent courts installed at Castle Hayne in 2018.

- The club offers free training at Greenfield Lake every Saturday for beginners. More Advanced training is offered as requested.
- We purchased a Simon ball machine, but it is not working as we had hoped. Thank you to EJ Hanley for storing the machine and tracking its use.
- We sponsored the Tournament for Parkinsons Disease in August. Thank you to Jane Klippel and Mike Walz for their efforts in making this a successful event.
- We have held regular social events. Thank you to Carolyn and Feri for making these so successful.
- Our membership has grown substantially. The year began with 109 members and will end with a roster that exceeds 325.
- Unfortunately, we lost 5 members this year. Please join me in a moment of Silence.
- Lastly, I would like to thank the entire Board of Directors for their efforts on behalf of the Cape Fear Pickleball Club.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

- Jane Klippel said that the 2017 budget estimated income at \$9,000 and our expenses at \$9,000. Income is comprised of Dues, Tournament Fees and sales of Club Apparel. Expenses include, but are not limited to: Equipment, Insurance, Social event expenses.
- Our current bank balance is about \$3,000.

#### **DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

- Bernie Baker reported that membership as of November 1, 2017 reached 329

#### **DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS REPORT**

- Harry Marriner reported that he had expanded the schedule of where to play on the Web Page to include day and time in spreadsheet format.
- He added a Gear Exchange tab where people can post used equipment they would like to sell or give away.

- The Ladder League results and pairings have been posted regularly.
- A pickleball links page has been added containing links to other sites relevant to the game. This includes links to issues of Pickleball Magazine.
- Emily Martinelli is taking over our Facebook page. Please visit it, Emily has made the page more interesting.

## **DIRECTOR OF COMPETITION**

- This year we started a Ladder League. We started a men's league and a women's league on Sundays, but attendance was not good, so we went to Mixed Doubles on Thursday evenings and had 20+ teams. We had 75+ club members who played regularly or as a sub. Interest level seems high, so if you have any ideas for leagues, send them in.
- As the club grows, court availability may become an issue. We placed a sign in book at Robert Strange in order to document court usage. Some of the data from that book showed that for the period between July 19<sup>th</sup> and October 26<sup>th</sup> (100 days), there were only 9 days where no pickleball was played. This equates to 90% usage. On 21 of those days there were multiple events. The average number of players per event was 9. The data shows interest levels and that we will probably need more courts in the future.
- Thank you to all the volunteers who assisted at the Y Parkinsons Tournament. The level of play is definitely rising. Thank you to Jane Klippel and the Y for supporting our tournaments.

## **DIRECTOR OF TRAINING**

- Mike McGrath mentioned that the Simon pickleball machine launches pickleballs for practice. He said it has been broken lately, that the carousel part has not been functioning. Mike said that he fixed it and if you need to use the machine, continue to contact EJ. We charge \$5 to rent the machine, we paid 600.
- Thank you to Kevin for training beginners at Greenfield Lake every Saturday.
- Thank you to Brian Chandler for helping out at Greenfield Lake
- Thank you to Steve Morrissey, Bill Trainer and Mike Igoe for their efforts.

- Training has become a commodity. We are charging \$10 per person or \$40 per hour. People should pay for training, they are paying for our expertise and our time.
- Notes for training are posted on the website. Harry has posted training videos as well on the website.
- Mike said Pickleball requires 3 things: keep your eye on the ball, bend you knees and move up to the net.
- Mike wishes Joe Reina good luck

### **DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL EVENTS**

- Carolyn said that she and Feri have enjoyed their two years working together, they have hosted 4 parties per year and loved and appreciated all the help and support.
- Their recommendation? Go to socials, get to know one another!
- Kevin Chandler announced that Carolyn has been appointed Vice President to fill that position vacated when Sylvia Hales resigned. Feri has been re-elected as Director of Social Events

### **ADOPTION OF DUES FOR 2018**

The Board has decided to leave the dues at the same level as 2017:

Full Year Single - \$25	After July 1 <sup>st</sup> - \$15
Full Year Couple - \$45	After July 1 <sup>st</sup> - \$25
Full Year Family - \$65	After July 1 <sup>st</sup> - \$35

Steve Hagan asked if there was a proposed budget for next year. Kevin responded, no, not yet. Kevin stated that the membership at this time last year was 180. But upon renewal in January of 2017, membership dropped to 108. Potential drop in January of 2018 makes forecasting difficult.

Steve asked: As a not for profit we operate with a \$0 based budget. Kevin responded, no, we can have money in the bank.

Steve suggested that we donate money to the churches that allow us to use their facilities to thank them at Christmas time. Kevin thought that was a good idea and said that the Board will take that issue up.

Dr. J asked if we reduced the cost of membership, do we think membership level would grow faster? Kevin said perhaps we could consider hardship, but we have not heard that that is an issue.

Ann Coffee made a motion to adopt dues. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved by membership.

### **MEMBER COMMENTS / QUESTIONS**

Gary Protzman asked if there was a correlation between the amount of courts and membership levels. Kevin responded that we do not have enough indoor courts, but do have sufficient outdoor courts. As the number of players grow, we will need more of both.

Dr. J observed that 60% of the people in the room, he does not see often. We are getting so spread out and there are issues between recreational play, betting better, etc. how do we get more inclusive. Kevin agreed, we all have this issue. We have made a conscious effort to allocate time by levels, yet keeping open play alive.

Harry M. mentioned that we do have open play scheduled but the numbers are dwindling. Perhaps this is because the better players don't want to play down. Bill T. suggested that when you play with a weaker player, hit half the balls to the stronger to make it a better, more competitive game.

Emily shared that she had been welcomed with open arms. But it works both ways, better players can practice specific shots and lesser players learn by participating. She suggested that folks use Facebook to find games and source people to play. Please join the FB page, like the page! Anybody can post to the page. Ann Coffee agreed stating that she had travelled to Indianapolis and found places to play by visiting Facebook.

Emily said that the Holiday Parade will be posted on the Parks and Rec FB page. They have asked up for a picture.

Juan brought up the fact that when we lost WAC, we lost Silver Sneakers. Are there any other Silver Sneaker sites that exist or can be developed.

Bill Trainer – Parks and Recreation is not a decision making entity, they only recommend. I would like to start of kid's program. We need paddles. If you have any you would like to donate, that would be appreciated.

Member X – I played in Chapel Hill. They had 6 dedicated courts at a park. They have approval for 24 more dedicates courts. Perhaps we could contact them to learn about their experience in getting the courts approved.

MS. Newel – I am an ex-physical education teacher. If you want to get in schools, volunteer to go in and teach. Donating paddles would be great. Emily asked if they perform background checks and Ms. Newel responded that they do, but it is not a difficult process.

Randy mentioned that School systems have Staff Development days. Get in there when you have access to all the County PE teachers, train the group.

Steve Morrisey said we need to sit down as a group and determine demographics of the school and what is the right entry point, age level.

Kevin Chandler – thanked Mike Walz for the data. It will be useful when we go to the City. Also, you forgot to mention that after the ladder league, we go out afterwards, its lots of fun!

Steve Morrisey – I have been involved in Pickleball since 2012. At that time, Kevin was serving as the Ambassador to the USAPA which position focused on growing population, improving play and introducing new programs. On behalf of the TT group, Steve presented Kevin with a gift.

Steve continued: Last month, Kevin stepped down from his role as ambassador. I am assuming that role. I want to work very closely with the club and focus on working with the County levels. Jane Klippel, in her role as ambassador, will focus on working with the City. I recently attended a meeting with Parks and Recreation where they discussed putting 6 new courts at Northwest Park. We estimate that there are 150 – 200 Pickleballers who are not members of the Club. Once I140 opens, Castle Hayne will be much more accessible. We will be looking at Ogden and Robert Strange Park for future permanent sites. We need fact based data.

Kevin mentioned that the next Social event will be on January 6<sup>th</sup> at the Inland Greens Club House.

General Meeting was adjourned.