



San Diego District Tennis Association
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MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, June 8, 2021 via Zoom Online Meeting

Next General Meeting Tuesday, August 10, 2021 at 7:00 PM

- I. **CALL TO ORDER: 7:06 PM.** Called to order by Carol Jory. Attendees were Mike Bauer, Cara Beltran, Jim Bodor, John Broderick, John Chanfreau, Andrew Cretella, Jeff Greenwald, M.A. Hillier, Josh Jorgensen, Carol Jory, Jim Lackritz, Jeffrey Lee, Steve Leffler, Anne Leistikow, Randie Lettington, Eric Mann, Shatoo Mohamad, Hillary Park, Anne Podney, Simon Shen, Todd Sprague and Jeff Anderson. Carol appointed John Broderick to fill the Vice President position left vacant by the passing of Jim Winters for the remainder of 2021. Carol nominated Simon Shen to join the Executive Committee.
MSP
- II. **MINUTES:** April 13, 2021 Executive Meeting Minutes MSP.
- III. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Carol Jory recognized a strong group of new SDDTA Directors including John Chanfreau, who manages Rancho Santa Fe Tennis Club, Eric Mann, an umpire, tennis teaching professional at Penninsula Tennis Club and National Coach at San Diego Youth Tennis, and Shatoo Mohamad, a teaching professional at East County Community Tennis Association and pro tour player. Carol also recognized Hillary Park who coaches the Grossmont High School girls' team and has extensive USTA league captaining and tournament experience.
- IV. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Jim Lackritz discussed the Jan-May 2021 P&L report. We are still awaiting the SCTA semi-annual grant. MSP
- V. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
 - a. **Military Outreach:** Steve Leffler reported for Steve Kappes. The Naval Hospital and VA Medical Center are asking when the District Wounded Warrior Tennis Program (WWTP) will resume and hope to refer patients soon. WWTP has become an official member of the San Diego Veterans Coalition, a highly respected umbrella organization for the 150+ veteran service organizations in the region. WWTP received a \$1,000 contribution from the Rotary Club of Coronado in April. The club has contributed every year since our first camp in 2012. Balboa Tennis Club has approved the re-start of the WWTP weekly clinics in the fall. There will be no camp this year, however.
 - b. **Collegiate:** Anne Podney reported that SDDTA scholarship deadline has been extended to August 15. So far, there are no applicants.
 - c. **Tournaments:** Anne Podney reported that the District Tournament (Aug. 28-29 and Sep. 4-6) is online. Eric Mann is the Referee and Hiromi Sasano is the Tournament Director. Anne pointed out that it has become very difficult under the new tournament system to download player records and seed and rank players properly. Jim Lackritz noted that the old tennis link system permitted downloading results into the tournament director software which facilitated this task. Jim will ask SCTA about this. Todd Sprague mentioned that he had been able to use the new software recently to run a national event and felt the new system would continue to improve over time. Josh Jorgensen felt that one enhancement should be to allow players to find tournaments at a given level.

A general discussion on the status of tournaments ensued. Anne Podney presented stats from a few local tournaments that suffered 30% or greater declines in participation and mentioned that several have been discontinued (Coronado, Triton UCSD, and Fallbrook). She stated that possible factors including new club management, the new USTA software, the fact that clubs are full of players and do not have as much court availability as previously, and the effect of continued price increases for tournament participation. Additional impacts on tournament participation were discussed such as the need to coordinate USTA league with the summer tournament schedule since league costs around \$30 for 6-8 matches during the season versus higher costs for a single elimination tournament match and the need to differentiate tournaments to provide participants more choice and playing options including shorter tournaments and round-robin brackets. Randie Lettington stated that USTA attempts to accommodate teams with tournament conflicts if known on the front-end of season scheduling but that some situations like a 3-weekend tournament such as La Jolla are difficult to accommodate. She also pointed out the league schedule would be returning to a more normal format this fall but the pandemic had imposed additional constraints this summer to ensure local teams would be able to participate in national playoffs.

- d. **Newsletter:** Anne Podney reported that all articles for the next newsletter should be received by Jeff and Anne by the end of June. The newsletter will be mailed out in late July.
- e. **San Diego Tennis Hall of Fame:** John Broderick reported that the SDTHOF induction ceremony would be Saturday August 28th at 4 PM during the District Tournament.
- f. **USTA League:** Randie Lettington reported that there were roughly 2000 league participants in the Spring season - the first team season returning during the pandemic. Adult leagues were downsized due to COVID restrictions. 28 Spring teams will be heading to Sectionals in July for the 18 and Over division and in September for the Mixed 40 and Over division. Sectionals for the 55 and Over league will be hosted at Barnes TC in September 2021.
- g. **Awards:** It was decided to postpone a decision on the Annual Banquet until the August meeting.

VI. **NEW BUSINESS:** A discussion was held about Universal Tennis which developed the Universal Tennis Rating (UTR) and its push into tournament and league offerings. Several local clubs have offered UTR-based tournaments and found them easy to set up and run. Additionally, they do not require umpires. However, a club may need to frequently offer tournaments in order to justify the annual UTR fees.

VII. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Leffler, Secretary

Carol Jory, President