

Rockcliffe Lawn Tennis Club
AGM
Sunday, November 09, 2008 at 2pm
Rockcliffe Park Community Centre

Welcoming Remarks: President Charles Bélanger introduced the Board of Directors, namely, Maureen Boyd, Beata Garel-Jones, George Pickering, John Taylor, and Caroline Vecchio. Bob Roberts could not be present and sends his regrets. In attendance were 22 members thus meeting the obligation of constituting a quorum defined as 10 members in attendance.

Approval of the agenda:

A motion was moved by Richard Aubin to approve the agenda which was carried unanimously.

Approval of the 2007 AGM special and regular meetings minutes:

A motion was moved by Jim Cody to approve both meetings minutes, with the understanding that the current Board could not reconcile the number of members reported in the 2007 AGM minutes. Motion was carried unanimously.

President Report

Charles Bélanger provided attendees with a year-in review of the major initiatives undertaken by the current Board which included the enhancement of the website, increased social gatherings, the planning and realization of the Junior Park and the upkeep of our clay courts which have been kept in top shape throughout the season. Major challenge for the year ahead for the Board is to build a reserve and/or contingency fund to upgrade our clay courts in order to maintain the level of satisfaction of our members. The 2008 season was described as a successful one, and also a turning point as to how the RTLC is to be managed in the future years.

Tournaments:

Maureen Boyd reported a record turnout. Efforts in promoting the tournament resulted in a very high participation rate this year. The pool of members participating was so big that long time members have stated to have played against people they had never played before. The introduction of trophies to winners by category also raised the competitiveness of the event. A recommendation was raised by Anka to reinstate the diplomatic tournament as an annual event to broaden even further the basin of players, and not limited to diplomats that are current members. The introduction of an over 55 category will be explored.

Junior Program:

Beata Garel-Jones informed people in attendance with financial numbers for this year's program which netted \$23,643 up \$7,131 or 30% compared to 2007 in addition to having introduced for the first time a fall program. In order to maintain this momentum, recommendation is to dedicate 4 hard courts to the Junior program in 2009. This requirement will see a review of the private lesson policy more specifically in relation to determining prime time at the Club in an effort to allow the usage of clay courts in the delivery of private lessons when available.

Special Projects:

In Bob Roberts' absence, the President reported on the special projects for this past year, which included the play structure as part of the Junior Park, the defibrillator, and the umpire chair. The intent of this Board is not to rely on fundraising to accomplish our core activities but the Board would welcome any donations on special projects. Such special projects would be publicized on both the RTALC newsletter as well as our website.

Membership:

As per the concerns raised at the opening of the meeting, this Board could not substantiate and confirm the membership numbers provided by the previous Board. The 2008 season resulted in 562 members, divided into the following categories: Adults, 308; Non-residents, 23; Social, 66; and 165 Juniors.

Grounds and Maintenance:

John Taylor in his first year as a Director oversaw the temporary repair on Court number 1, cell number 6. In the fall of 2007, the RTALC received a \$6,000 water bill from the City of Ottawa which led the Board to believe that there was a water leak. Following repairs undertaken at the end of this season, water consumption level has now been brought back to normal. The fundamental problem to this issue has not been fixed and it is the retaining wall which pulls outward. Estimated cost by Teskey, to fix the retaining wall and repair the clay courts, amount to approximately \$90 000 with GST. Furthermore, to maintain the clay surface in excellent condition, an upgrade would be required every 5 years. Subject to financial resources, this is a must on the short list of core priorities of the Club. Other issues of concern but not as pressing as the clay courts are the front entrance refurbishing, the big tree that leans toward the Club house that could be a hazard to members and the property if left unattended, and the resurfacing of the hard courts in the medium term.

Financial Report:

George Pickering introduced Krista who has been the bookkeeper of the Club and a key partner to Very Cody the Club manager. Together they have kept a close look at the expenditures of running the Club house and the increase in services provided. The management of the Club finances has been a major undertaking this past season. For the first time this year the Board is making source deductions payments for its employees, is paying \$800 in Director's liability insurance and has hired a professional bookkeeper for keeping track of income and expenses. These practices resulted in higher than expected operating costs in comparison to the year 2007. Major challenges for next year will be the clay courts improvement, better matching the services versus the costs. The good news is that we have no debts, as it now stands we expect to have \$30,000 in the bank to open next season

Election of Directors:

Nominated to the Secretary of the Board were Caroline Vecchio and George Pickering for their first two-year term. They both joined in March 2008 as Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Beata Garel-Jones is serving her second two-year term; she is the Junior Program Director. Although she had served for one year in 2006-2007, she is now serving the second year of her first two-year term. Bob Roberts is serving his second two-year term as the Special Project Director, and Hassan Moghadam is serving his first

two-year term as the Membership Director. Motion was moved by Richard Aubin and seconded by Wally.

Other Business:

General discussions followed regarding the way forward of the Club now that a systematic approach was reached in moving this operation from one that was based on volunteer work to one where we outsource. It was agreed by the majority present that the Board could not sustain this level of service for the income that is generated. The Board will therefore review some options available to bridge the existing gaps.

The Board thanked the Club Manager, Vera Cody, for her devotion and hard work during the past season.

The reciprocal membership with other tennis club outside the City of Ottawa were explored but were non-resultant due to the fact that the RTALC is not an all year-around tennis facility.

Meeting was adjourned at 16:00

Caroline Vecchio
Secretary

- Annex 1: President Report
- Annex 2: Tournament Report
- Annex 3: Junior Program Report
- Annex 4: Special Project Report
- Annex 5: Membership Report
- Annex 6: Ground and Maintenance Report
- Annex 7: Financial Report
- Annex 8: Election of Directors