**National Capital Squash Rackets Association (NCSRA)**

**aka National Capital Squash (NCS)**

**Board Minutes**

**September 16, 2010 (Thursday)**

**Location and Time: Regency Sport & Health, 6:45 pm.**

**Officers Attending:** AJ Copeland (VP-Women and Acting President), Hunt Richardson (VP-Tournaments), Abir Ray (VP-Membership), Malcolm Jensen (VP-Leagues), Steve Weber (Treasurer),

**Officers not present:** David Keating (VP-Juniors), Srini Guruswami (VP-IT), Munish Sikka (Secretary), Ghirma Meres (Past President)

**Club Reps/Alternates (Attending):**

Chris Shroeder (Pentagon)

Mike Pak (Rio)

**Also Attending:**

Meherji Madan

**Regrets**

Rod Barnes (Potomac)

Andrew Mishkin (University Club)

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:15pm.

**Approval of the Agenda**

*A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to accept the agenda as published.*

**Approval of the Minutes**

The draft minutes of the Executive Committee NCS Board meeting of August 3, 2010 were reviewed. *A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to accept the minutes as written.*

**ACTION ITEM**

**NCS Representation at the USQ Assembly**

The motion submitted by Meherji for NCS to send a representative of the NCS Board to the USQ general assembly meeting in Chicago Oct 1-2 was entertained. The potential value to NCS of having a representative attend this meeting was debated. After some discussion the consensus became that at the very least attending the meeting would permit NCS to (a) form friendly alliances with other SRAs, (b) possibly meet some of the new USQ Board members, and (c) “show the flag” of the NCS at the national meeting. David Keating who was one of the individuals nominated to attend the assembly has indicated that he is unable to do so. Abir will be in Chicago attending the USQ Open to watch the matches, but he indicated a reluctance to be the sole representative of NCS at the assembly. Likewise Maj raised some questions he would like to ask the USQ Board of Directors at the Annual Assembly, but as he is no longer formally affiliated with the NCS Board he was encouraged to pursue those questions as a USQ member rather than as a representative of NCS. Ultimately the Board agreed to formulate specific questions to put to the USQ BOD at the annual meeting, and to circulate these to the regional SRA representatives in advance of the meeting. *Hunt and Maj will work to come up with these questions. Malcolm will attend the meeting as the NCS representative. Malcolm and Abir will make a report to the NCS Board upon their return.*

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**USQ/NCS Membership Renewal Procedures**

Abir has discovered that there are some NCS members whose membership dues continue to go to the “phantom” SRA established at USQ during the period of time the two organizations were disaffiliated, and that these individuals have been charged only $20 for the SRA dues. *Abir will ask USQ to disassemble the “phantom” and reconcile the membership lists in toto. Steve will ask USQ to remit the $45 per member owed to NCS. Abir will confirm that juniors are being charged $10 per year for NCS dues. Abir will also ask Railstation to add an autorenew option with a $5/year discount on the NCS website, just as the discount is offered at USQ.*

**Juniors Tournaments**

In David’s absence, Hunt described the new Junior tournament system. Local pros have applied for USQ sanctioning of their Juniors tournaments, and are awaiting approval of same.

**Tournament Report**

Hunt identified Jay Naseem’s “Northern Virginia Open” tournament Oct 15-17 as the first adult tournament of the season. There will be a Rules & Referee clinic offered on the Saturday of that weekend from 1:00-2:30, chiefly for juniors and novices, with a cost of approximately $20-25.

**Member Communication**

Abir has been sending out squash camp and clinic information periodically over the summer. Automatic membership renewal reminders are also going out at regular intervals prior to a membership expiration date.

**USQ League Finals**

The Board reviewed USQ’s proposal for National League Finals. A problem with the ratings boundaries looms as the biggest problem. Additionally, NCS has not budgeted to support such an event this fiscal year. Club reps did not know if their league players would be especially interested in participating. After discussion the consensus was to take a “wait and see” approach to how popular and successful this effort is, and reconsider next year.

**Fitzgerald Cup**

Malcolm reported that, as the Fitzgerald Cup is in Baltimore this year, he is waiting to learn where and when it will be played, and whether there will be a juniors event associated with it. Team selection will be based upon an initial roster formulated on objective criteria, with at least two months notice to allow for challenge matches.

**NCS Bylaws Revision**

AJ is awaiting legal review before submitting the revised bylaws for Board vote. *She will forward these to Robert Dyer for review with the plan to have them ready for a vote by the next meeting.*

**NCS League Rules Revision/Updating**

*Hunt and Malcolm will spearhead this effort.*

**Treasurer’s Report**

Steve distributed an interim Financial Report. He reported that the IRS issue has been resolved. He also agreed to get NCS reinstated in DC as a 501(c)(3) organization and will report on progress toward that end at the October meeting.

**Other Business**

Abir reported that NCS currently pays for a number of domain names, some of which we do not use at all. He will send out a list and BOD members should indicated to him which one(s) should be eliminated.

**Next Meeting**

A date for the next meeting of the Executive Board is Wednesday Oct 20 at 6:45pm at Potomac Squash Club.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Annesley W. Copeland

for Munish Sikka, Secretary

**APPENDIX**

**Juniors Report**

Submitted by David Keating in absentia

I spent a lot of time working with tournament directors from Baltimore to Richmond to come up with a consensus of tournaments for sanctioning by US Squash.  In the end, we got an excellent result.

My key concern was to maximize the number of tournaments in the region that I thought could be supported while minimizing competition between tournaments.  Under the new ranking system, points are earned at tournaments. It is important that we show the region can support good draws.

The tournaments have been scheduled so as to minimize conflict with each other.  I am pleased to report that US SQUASH accepted all the tournaments proposed on the list through the end of this year.  I am hopeful that when they sanction tournaments through the end of the season, all the other tournaments will be accepted as well.

I hope that two "Gold" events will be sanctioned in the region.  These are events with the most points available for juniors to earn in the new ranking system, except for Junior Championship tournaments.  This requires additional discussions and negotiations with the VSRA as well as US Squash.

Additionally the TDs have agreed to cross promote the tournaments.  NCS in cooperation with the TDs and hopefully the Maryland and Virginia SRAs will soon announce the Mid-Atlantic Junior Series of tournaments.  Juniors will get points for placing in each tournament.  At the end of the season we will take the four best tournament results (at least one tournament must be played outside of a district association, so that means NCS kids would have to play at least one MSSRA or VSRA event) and award prizes for the best overall record in each age/gender division, with additional prizes for rookie players.  I am hoping the TDs will reserve $1 per player for the prizes and that perhaps the MSSRA and VSRA can help with the awards as well.

When the entire season schedule has been set, we will be able to produce posters announcing all the tournaments in the region and the MAJS awards.

The TDs were all pretty cooperative, and US Squash appreciated all the work to synchronize the schedules and elimination of potential conflicts.

I have also been working with local MASO schools, urging them to avoid scheduling team events that would conflict with local tournaments.  This has been more difficult, but it appears that the Mid-Atlantic championship team tournament will at least work with our schedule.  I am also asking schools to support local tournaments, but it is too early to tell if we will get any cooperation on that front.

I have reserved the end of February for an end of season event of some kind.  It is not year clear what direction this will take, a tournament for NCS players or a tournament based on local high school teams or some combination.

David