**National Capital Squash (NCS)**

**Board Minutes**

**February 23, 2010 (Wednesday)**

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

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

**Officers not present:** Abir Ray (VP-Membership), Srini Guruswami (VP-IT), Munish Sikka (Secretary), Ghirma Meres (Past President)

**Club Reps/Alternates Attending:**

Anne Monahan (Regency S&H, interim)

David Robertson (Results, interim)

Andrew Mishkin (University Club)

Raul Nair (University of Maryland, interim)

**Also Attending:**

Meherji Madan

**Regrets:**

Michael Pak (Rio)

Brad Brigante (SCLA, interim)

Rod Crider (YMCA)

**Call to Order**

A quorum was assembled and the meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00pm.

**Approval of the Minutes**

The draft minutes of the Executive Committee NCS Board meeting of Jan 10, 2011 were reviewed. *The minutes were accepted as published.*

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**Fitzgerald and Lacy Cup planning**

Malcolm reported that the date of Saturday April 16 has been set for the Fitzgerald and Lacy Cup competitions. The matches will be played at the Maryland Club in Baltimore. The cost will be $50 for NCS players and $75 for any of their guests to attend the party to follow. Malcolm was uncertain if the Lacy Cup (the women’s) matches are to be played at the same location; *he will inquire*. Malcolm presented a preliminary line-up for NCS; *he will post this on the NCS website with a call to invite challenge matches.*

**Ratings Revisions**

Malcolm and Raul described to the Board a situation where a University of Maryland league player was deemed to be ineligible to play Div 4 at the start of the season, and his rating in Railstation was manually adjusted by Malcolm with the knowledge of the Division Coordinator. However, neither the player himself nor his team captain was notified of the change until the player had completed four matches in Div 4. Subsequently Malcolm voided the player’s four matches. After some discussion, a motion was made to respectfully advise Malcolm as the VP-Leagues to reverse his decision to void the matches, but the player would continue to be ineligible to play Div 4. *The motion was seconded and passed 8-1 in favor*, with Malcolm the only dissenter. The wording of the policy that was developed subsequent to this incident was reviewed and several suggestions were made to clarify it.

**Referee Clinic**

AJ pointed out that the budget for the past several years has included a line item for NCS to sponsor or host “Referee Clinics” which have however never transpired. As a certified referee trainer, Hunt described the materials he has to run a referee clinic including a USQ syllabus and DVDs. He reported that the course takes approximately 3-1/2 hours plus a lunch break, and the typical fee paid to a referee instructor is $500. Program graduates are certified at the Club level; participants who already hold the Club certification graduate as State referees. There was enthusiasm for holding a referee clinic both this spring and in the fall in advance of the fall League season, possibly at University Club, with a cost for participants in the $20-30 range (discounted for NCS members). *Hunt and AJ will spearhead this effort*. In addition, Hunt will post the old USQ 50-item multiple choice referee exam on the NCS website for those wishing to attain Club referee status independently.

**Fisher Cup Planning**

The Board recognizes that, as John Eisaman has indicated he no longer wishes to do it, another person must be identified to organize Fisher Cup. *Hunt has one or two people in mind and will make inquiries.* Maj also urged Hunt to begin considering the Awards process. AJ encouraged him to identify someone new to take the lead in organizing the Awards party.

**Club Representative Positions Open**

AJ called attention to the remaining vacancies in the Club Rep roster, particularly Bethesda S&H.

**Status of data transfer to/from USQ**

AJ noted that no match data from the current league season has appeared in the player profiles on the USQ website to date, despite the agreement we have with USQ. Also, Abir has recently complained about the tedious data entry tasks associated with his position as VP-Membership. *AJ will call Abir to make inquiries.*

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Division 6**

Andrew had nothing to report regarding a Division 6 initiative.

**NCS Bylaws Revision**

AJ received legal comments on the Board bylaws draft and circulated them.

*She will conclude the edits with the plan to have a final version ready for a vote by the next meeting.*

**NCS League Rules Revision/Updating**

Hunt and Malcolm were encouraged to complete the task of reviewing and updating the League rules and to circulate them electronically for Board approval to expedite their posting on the NCS website.

**Other Business**

**Tournament Report**

Hunt reported that the Woodruff-Nee tournament had 14 hardball players and around 40 players in the softball draws. The WinterSun had between 70 and 80 amateur players, including adults and juniors. He repeated that he has stated to both the PSA contact (Gus Cook) as well as Rod Barnes that the WinterSun must not be scheduled on the same weekend as Woodruff-Nee in the future; and that if it is, NCS will decline to provide any financial support.

**Brainstorming/Strategic Planning**

The end of the meeting was dedicated to brainstorming. David commented that a fundamental problem with growing the sport in this area is the shortage of squash courts. He reported that a local investor is planning to build an 8-court facility in downtown NW. He noted the importance of involving schools in developing juniors in terms of allowing their students to play on teams, and mentioned approaching Athletic Directors of private schools in the area for their support. Raul proposed the idea of a discounted NCS membership fee for students, including graduate students. He also described difficulties in signing up on the NCS website through Railstation. David also wondered if more players would be interested in tournaments/events/round robins on the weekends, as weeknights (i.e. league) present scheduling conflicts for many people. AJ pointed out the success of the one-day “Old School” tournament at SCLA, and also wondered about special occasion events like a Halloween tournament (in costume). Some of these ideas will be considered at future meetings.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be the Executive Board only, on Tuesday April 12 at Potomac Squash Club, 6:45pm.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

AJ Copeland

for Munish Sikka, Secretary