

EAST VALLEY SENIOR TENNIS LEAGUE
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
MINUTES
OCTOBER 25, 2017

1. Call to Order: The regular meeting of the EVSTL was called to order by President Tom Arnold at 3:00 pm at Valle del Oro. Presidents and league representatives introduced themselves and any guests with them. President Arnold made some introductory remarks regarding the purpose and proper use of the presidents' email group. He then introduced the executive committee, and proceeded with the agenda.
2. Roll Call: 16 clubs were represented by either the respective club president or league voting representative, constituting a quorum.
3. Minutes: Minutes of the regular meeting of March 31, 2017, had been posted on the EVSTL website prior to the meeting. Motion by VDO and second by VP to approve the minutes as posted. Motion passed 16-0.
4. Treasurer's Report: In the absence of Carey Bernard, secretary/ treasurer, Arnold presented the treasurer's report showing a beginning balance on April 1, 2017, of \$ 6,867.15 , with no further deposits. The only disbursement was \$ 3,000.00 payment to Tencap for this season one-half payment, leaving a balance of \$ 3,867.15. The second half payment to Tencap is due in December. Club payments for annual dues for 2017-18 were received at this meeting. Motion made by AWVV to approve the minutes and second by LW. Motion carried. Arnold also explained that the league bank account was changed from Wells Fargo to US Bank due to some suspicious email activity regarding the bank account.
5. Appointment of advisory committee. Per the bylaws, the next five alphabetical club presidents were appointed to the league advisory committee: MR, MV, RH, SR, SSV. The vice president will be an ad hoc member of the committee and will chair the committee.
6. Appointment of nominating committee. A drawing was held to determine the members of the nominating committee. The members are VO, SSV, VP. The current vice president will be available for consultation to the committee. The nominating committee will submit a recommended slate of officers for the 2018-19 season to the president EVSTL by January 12. The slate will include nominations for president, vice president, secretary/ treasurer, and scheduler. The past president position is automatic.
7. Club liaisons. President Arnold explained the club liaison arrangement wherein each member of the executive committee works with a select group of clubs to assist the clubs in any way and facilitate communication with the executive committee as may be needed. The assignments are: Tom Arnold (VDO, SR, TR); Joe Ricci (LW, TP, SVE, SSV); Carey Bernard (MV, AWVV, GV); Ben Wilford (VP, CM, SV); Ralph Sharp (VO, RH, MR).

8. Coordinator reports:

Tencap Advisory Committee: Chairman Ralph Sharp introduced the committee members (Ralph Sharp, Roger Stevens, Joe Ricci, Rebecca Elliott, Julie Post). He then listed several important matters to be discussed by the TAC with recommendations to the executive committee:

- * borrowing players from sister team (impending bylaw change recommendation)
- * review the 6/6 rule in captains' procedures
- * mid-season voluntary move-up and move-down (set requirements/ dates, etc)
- * review possible opportunity for play-downs
- * review the 2-point rule, whether to retain or not.

Chairman Sharp then summarized the process whereby the TAC discusses issues, which are then forwarded to the executive committee for final decisions, communication with the clubs, and possible bylaw changes.

Scheduling: Ben Wilford, league scheduler, and Terry Garrett, scheduler for the 1.5 and 4.0 teams, made comments regarding the scheduling process, team rosters, the need for accurate MCI information to be made current, the Jan. 1, 2018 league play day. Both schedulers thanked the membership for getting their Tencap rosters up to date and the number of teams established quickly. This was very helpful and necessary in supporting their efforts to put the schedules together.

1.5 Plan (handout): Jane Wise, 1.5 coordinator for the EVSTL, summarized the plan for 1.5 play this season. There will be league play all season for the first time. Social as well as league play will still be arranged. Players must attain a 69 or better rating to be promoted to the 2.0 level. Social players will be given a 69 when promoted to 2.0 level. Players on 2.0 teams with a 1.5 rating (70+) will be encouraged to play on Thursdays with players with similar ratings. Clubs with 1.5 rated players on the 2.0 level have the option to require these players to play on Thursdays or not.

Opportunity matches: Joe Ricci, OM administrator, named the OM coordinators for this season, and explained that there will not be a 4.0 opportunity match system. Ricci also explained that there will be a trial for the 2.0 level concerning clubs sending individual players to the OM system. The trial will be evaluated and the results and recommendations will be discussed with the membership at the next meeting in January.

75+ League: Mel Franz, coordinator for the 75+ league, was not in attendance. If clubs would like to participate in the 75+ league they are to contact Mel at MV for more information. There will be six teams in the 75+ league this season.

MCI (Master Club Information): Ben Wilford discussed the change this season to eliminate the team rosters from the MCI websites and to simply maintain the Tencap rosters current.. Ben also emphasized the importance of keeping the MCI club information regarding club leadership and contact information up to date.

9. Other business:

TP president Joel Woods requested that certain bylaws be observed regarding the split roster rule and the rule requiring players be a member of only one team. Discussion followed. Recommendation was made by President Arnold that this matter be tabled until the January meeting and at that time a proposed bylaw change could be proposed by TP or another member to address the issue.

MV representative asked about the possibility of a single-gender league schedule for all levels. Ben Wilford responded with an explanation as to the very difficult scheduling problems that would possibly result. This includes the possibility of more teams for scheduling. This would be most felt in the shortage of courts to host more teams. President Arnold suggested that each club look at its teams and determine if there is a need for more teams, or not. This will be further discussed at the January league meeting.

TR president explained the merging of some teams with TR and SV. Some matches will be played at TR and some at SV. The teams involved will be informed as to the particulars.

SR also explained that some teams of SR have merged with CM.

TR asked for clarification as to the active vs. the inactive rosters. Ben Wilford explained that the active roster is for players who are here and ready for play. The inactive roster is for players not yet here or injured or absent or not available for play in a particular week. Players can and should be moved from the active to the inactive and back as appropriate to keep the active roster current.

Joe Ricci explained that Tennis Cabana is now closed and that there is no tennis shop now in the local area. Gary Widdup of Tennis Cabana is willing to come to clubs and make available racquets and other gear. If clubs are interested they should contact Joe Ricci who will make arrangements with Gary Widdup.

Arnold announced that the next meeting of the membership is at VDO on January 23.

Adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Arnold
President
(Carey Bernard absent)

End

East Valley Senior Tennis League (EVSTL)

General Membership Meeting

held January 23, 2018, 3pm at VDO

1. Call to Order by President Tom Arnold.
2. Roll Call- 16 clubs were in attendance, all represented by Presidents: Skip Abell VDO, Ken Kirsch CM, Gaylene Warner RH, Mary Ann Mathison SV, Joel Woods TP, Bob Downs MR, Byron Barnard MV, Clyde Baum VO, Sharon Olson BP, Jennifer Wittick SSV, Rick Hueback AWWV, Jim Lane GV, Rebecca Elliot LW, Juanita Dressel SR, Doug Shjeflo SVE and Jodi Dossier TR. Quorum present. Executive Board members in attendance: Tom Arnold (TA) President, Joe Ricci (JR) Vice President, Carey Barnard (CB) Secretary-Treasurer, Ralph Sharp (RS) Past President, Ben Wilford (BW) Scheduler.
3. Previous Meeting's Minutes of October 25, 2017 have been posted on the EVSTL website. One correction will be made prior to approval at March meeting: Point 3 where it reads "minutes of the regular meeting of October 31, 2017, had been posted on the website..." should read "minutes of the regular meeting of March 31, 2017 had been posted on the website". A motion to approve the minutes will be conducted at the March 2018 meeting.
4. Treasurer's Report: CB, Secretary-Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report showing

Opening Balance: as at October 25, 2017 (last general meeting)
\$3867.15

Deposits:

\$320 from club memberships

Disbursements:

\$3000 December 28, 2017 Tencap Sports ½ fees

\$189.87 January 23, 2018 Go Daddy Website hosting

Closing Balance: as at January 23, 2018

\$997.28

MOTION by VDO to accept Treasurer's Report as read, SECONDED by AWWV.

VOTE: unanimous

5. Election of Officers for 2018-2019 Season. The slate of officers presented included Joe Ricci as President, Julie Post as Vice President, Roger Betts as Secretary-Treasurer and Ben Wilford as Scheduler. President Tom Arnold called for other nominations from the floor, three times. No other nominations from the floor.

MOTION by LW to close 2018-18 EVSTL nominations. Seconded by SSV.

VOTE: unanimous

Joe Ricci recognized the good work Tom Arnold has done as President in 2017-2018.

6. TA gave a brief account of EVSTL history regarding complaints of unfair match-ups from as far back as 1979. With the introduction of tencap, we are now having a maximum number of tiebreaks. BW noted 36% of all VP matches involved match tiebreaks, not including counting the number of set tiebreaks. MV recognized the success of tencap creating good matchups and the uniqueness of EVSTL as a league.
7. Report – Tencap Advisory Committee (TAC) Chair Ralph Sharp (RS)
 - a. RS recognized members of the TAC including Roger Stevens. Joe Ricci, Julie Post and Rebecca Elliott.
 - b. A review of tasks that were undertaken by the TAC at monthly meetings over the past year were noted, including split 4.0s, injured player rules, retirement rules, introduction of playing down, changes to confidence levels, mid season moves, health moves, individual opportunity matches and more.
 - c. An appeal to clubs was made to ensure that all clubs make every effort to field the bylaw-required number of lines at their league matches, which is 4 for men, and 3 for women.
 - d. During the 2017-2018 break there were 45 requests submitted to TAC for mid-season moves. 44 met the criteria, 1 was denied. Of 44 approved, 31 requests were for move-ups and 13 requests were for move-downs.
 - e. Carriage Manor recognized the work that the TAC undertakes.
8. Report – Scheduler Ben Wilford (BW)
 - a. BW noted scheduling for 2.0 to 3.5 levels was done by Ben Wilford with 4.0 and 1.5 scheduling done manually by Terry Garrett.
 - b. Three seasonal calendar options were presented with Fall League starting on Monday Nov 5th, 2018

Option A

Fall Ends 12/21 (7 weeks); Winter Begins 12/31 (9 weeks); Winter ends 3/1

Option B

Fall Ends 12/21 (7 weeks); Winter Begins 1/7 (9 weeks); Winter Ends 3/8

Option C

Fall Ends 12/14; Winter Begins 12/31; Winter Ends 3/8

MOTION by TP: to accept OPTION C, Seconded by SR.

VOTE: 14 FOR, 2 AGAINST

- c. Michele Waters (CM) questioned whether 2 week window for moveup requests will be maintained in the new schedule and when. Response – it will remain over the Christmas break.

9. Bylaw Changes Proposed

1. **a) MOTION by MV: To bring forward for vote at March 2018 AGM - Beginner Bylaw Changes, SECONDED by RH**

VI. E. (1.5 Coordinator) Change 1.5 to Beginning Level Coordinator

VII. Team Membership

B. Change 1.5 – 4.0 for all minimum team numbers for teams 2-4.

K. (new) Clubs shall establish Beginner level teams for new players who do not have significant prior tennis experience or skills.

1. The Beginner level of play is to focus on learning the game of tennis through instruction and social play. Emphasis is on learning tennis fundamentals and rules, and less emphasis is on competitive play.

2. Beginners would practice separately from the 1.5 teams as determined by clubs.

3. Beginners are encouraged to play social matches to gain experience in combination with continuing instruction and support from the club.

4. Beginners may substitute in league match play but the match will not count.

5. Beginners may play social matches on Thursdays concurrent with the 1.5 teams but on separate courts.

6. Players on the 1.5 level may voluntarily move to the Beginner level, wherein their Tencap rating would go inactive for a period of time during which they do not compete in league matches.

7. Players may not be a member of the Beginner level and the 1.5 team concurrently.

8. A player on the 1.5 level may not be required to move to the Beginner level.

9. When Beginner team captains and coaches recommend that a Beginner player is ready to be promoted to the 1.5 or other level, the club's rating committee shall conduct an on-court evaluation to determine the player's appropriate level of play. The player will then be given a Tencap rating. If the player has an inactive Tencap rating (#6 above) the club shall request a change in the confidence level from the TAC if the on-court evaluation determines that the player (whose Tencap rating has been inactive) should be promoted to a level beyond 1.5.

IX. Player Rating Procedures

F.2. Eliminate this paragraph because on-court evaluations are required to move to 1.5

DISCUSSION

TA reviewed short history of 1.5 level issue with many 1.5 players currently playing at the 2.0 level creating problems with fair matchups. There was a need to establish a non-competitive beginner level, separate from the 1.5 league players. The Executive Committee tasked the TAC and the Advisory Committee (MV, MR, RH, SSV, SR) to review a new beginner level proposal. Comments were received by TAC and Advisory Committee, with results incorporated into draft content of bylaw shown in these minutes.

Comment AWWV- concern as a small club about minimum roster requirements, losing players at 2.0/1.5 levels even with the proposed 73 tencap allowance for 1.5s playing in 2.0s. TA noted that the 73 tencap was a temporary cutoff between 1.5s and 2.0s for next year and allow for an easier transition for those 1.5s playing 2.0 having 70-73 tencaps.

TP questioned why change to 73 tencap when 1.5 and 2.0 players could play up or down anyways. LW stated next year using the 73 tencap break will assist players and lessen the impact of changing levels. LW noted the adjustment for players has been difficult. Roger Stevens (Tencap Administrator) noted that approx. 3 or 4 - 2.0 club teams would be impacted by the 73 tencap allowance.

JR suggested enough 4.5 player coaches from various parks were available to assist parks as volunteers and suggested that parks communicate with each other to establish joint beginner training sessions where coaching or number of players limited. Jane Wise (1.5 Coordinator) noted that players do not want to move up to 2.0 then be required to move down. SR noted 4 men and 2 women still required to field a 1.5 team.

VOTE: unanimous.

b) MOTION by LW: That players having a tencap of 70, 71, 72, 73 who currently play at the 2.0 level may be grandfathered to the 2.0 level for the 2018-2019 season after which, players will be assigned to the appropriate level dictated by their tencap (with no 1 point bubble allowed). SECONDED by SVE

Discussion: This proposal is temporary to assist transition of players to and from 1.5/2.0 levels. It will not be a bylaw as is only intended for 2018-2019 season.

VOTE: unanimous.

[Details for the motions following, including reason for changes, are found in Minutes of EVSTL Executive Board Meeting from Dec 13, 2017 and numbered corresponding to the agenda attachment provided at the January 23, 2018 General Meeting.]

- 2. MOTION by TP: To bring forward for vote at March 2018 AGM- eliminate VII.D regarding rostering players on one team and splitting them into two sub-teams. SECONDED by CM**

[This was implemented January 1, 2018]

VOTE: unanimous

- 3. a) MOTION by MV: To bring forward for vote at March 2018 AGM- Injured Player/Retirement Bylaw Change VIII.I to March AGM. SECONDED by VDO**

DISCUSSION: Roger Stevens outlined issue, noting the system does not handle retirements well with respect to impact on players tencaps and recommended at least 1 set be played before recording scores in tencap.

VOTE: unanimous

- b) MOTION by SSV: To bring forward for vote at March 2018 AGM- to replace Bylaw Attachment C: Captains Procedures, Section 3 #9. SECONDED by SR**

[This reflects the changes made in previous motion regarding Injured Player/Retirements in # above]

VOTE: unanimous

- 4. a) MOTION by TR: To bring forward for vote at March 2018 AGM- to replace VII.J.2 to allow “play-downs”. SECONDED by LW**

VOTE: unanimous

- b) MOTION by TP: To bring forward for vote at March 2018 AGM- to replace Captains Procedures Section 4.1 to encourage players to play-up and/or play down to the next level whenever appropriate. SECONDED by AWVV**

VOTE: unanimous

- c) MOTION by VDO: To bring forward for vote at March 2018 AGM- to revise Captains Procedures 4.3 to encourage players to play-up and/or play down to the next level whenever appropriate. SECONDED by CM**

VOTE: unanimous

5. **MOTION by VDO: To bring forward for vote at March 2018 AGM – to replace IX.H reflecting a change in Confidence Level will be made, not a change in tencap. SECONDED by GV**

DISCUSSION: Roger Stevens noted that if confidence levels were reduced to 60% the system would adjust the tencaps of returning players to appropriate levels faster. AWVV asked why 60% was chosen. RS noted it was between 30-80 (official) and that at 60% the confidence levels would move 2-3x faster than if left at higher levels. SSV questioned how the confidence level of a player at 60% would affect the player's partner? RS responded that players will move according to their confidence levels, but that individuals are affected by a partner with a reduced confidence level. SV commented that it is difficult to match partnerships where, for eg. a 3.5 level player has a 4.0 level tencap. RS noted a number of players who felt they should be changed to a lower level, however, they continue to play at the level they came from, and most often maintain those tencaps. TA noted success of the confidence level change in e.g. 3.0 player who was re-rated at a 2.0 and within 4 matches moved from a 55 to 67.

VOTE: unanimous

6. **MOTION by TP: To bring forward for vote at March 2018 AGM – to propose new Bylaw IX.H. allowing for mid-season moves. SECONDED by AWVV**

DISCUSSION: TA introduced concept giving players option to move if tencap reflects another level. It was trialed at 2017-2018 break. Mid-season infers at the Christmas break. VDO suggested the first week of January be deleted. MV questioned why it should be a voluntary move and not a required move? TR suggested "voluntary" is powerful and positive language for players. RS responded that the current bylaw requirements for team sizes must be considered to maintain team numbers throughout the season.

VOTE: unanimous

7. **MOTION by VP: To bring forward for vote at March 2018 AGM – to modify VIII.J.5 to allow borrowing of players from park sister teams to meet match up requirements. SECONDED by VDO.**

VOTE: unanimous

8. a) **MOTION by VDO: To bring forward for vote at March 2018 AGM – to replace IX.F.1 to clarify confusing language "at end of season and at start of season". SECONDED by VDO.**

VOTE: unanimous

**b) MOTION by VDO: To bring forward for vote at March 2018 AGM – to delete IX.F.2. regarding movement of payers from 1.5 to 2.0 level. [Subject is now addressed in #1 above: New Bylaw to Address Beginner and 1.5 levels.]
SECONDED by MV**

9. **MOTION by TP: To bring forward for vote at March 2018 AGM – to replace IX.G.1. to clarify confusing language regarding “start of the season” phrase.
SECONDED by SV.**

VOTE: unanimous

10. **MOTION by TR: To bring forward for vote at March 2018 AGM – to replace IX.H. stating no player shall be allowed or required to move more than one skill level per season instead of year. SECONDED by SR.**

VOTE: unanimous

11. **MOTION by VDO: To bring forward for vote at March 2018 AGM –to replace IX.G.2 to limit players from using health/disability move downs for more than one season when rating does not conform to new level within a year.
SECONDED by CM.**

DISCUSSION: JR explained that confidence levels may be moved to 60% . Roger Stevens suggests we should include that a change in confidence level be done when a person is moved for health/disability reasons and that the bylaws should be revised to reflect this.

VOTE: unanimous

12. **MOTION by SV: To bring forward for vote at March 2018 AGM – to replace the annual census dates from January to March to coincide with tencap fee assessment. SECONDED by VDO.**

DISCUSSION: Roger Stevens noted historically census figures were given at different times and through different requests. The proposed March census date will reflect the number of players who have played a minimum of one match during the season and corresponds with the tencap fees assessed for each park. So March date is geared toward fee deadlines. Census reported was 2434 for January 2018 versus 2517 in January 2017. Since the January census, another 66 have registered bringing our current to approximately 2500.

VOTE: unanimous

13. **MOTION by VP: To bring forward for vote at March 2018 AGM – to replace V.C.2 and V.C.3. to change the duties of the Secretary-Treasurer and Scheduler to reflect actual responsibilities. SECONDED by VDO.**

DISCUSSION: BW requested clubs to provide rosters by August 1st annually, as proposed, and to update all club executive members and contact information in the MCIs as soon as possible.

VOTE: unanimous

14. a) **MOTION by VP: To bring forward for vote at March 2018 AGM – to replace Attachment A to allow both single or pairs of players to participate in Opportunity Matches. SECONDED by MV.**

DISCUSSION: JR announced that he would step down as OM Administrator. He announced that Brenda Wile would replace him and recognized her contribution to making OMs successful.

Proposed changes to OM “Attachment A” :

Delete #2, Attachment A and Replace with: “Players will be sent to and sent from the pool of players as two-person teams from the same club or single players.

Delete #3, Attachment A and Replace with: Play will always be on the same mornings as the league matches. The OM will always be set up as one club against another club or two single players from different clubs against a third or fourth club. They will be chosen to get the team ratings as close as possible. No team or single players will be allowed to compete against their own club.

Delete #2 under Coordinator’s Duties and Replace with: “Will send teams or single players to clubs requesting them for their league play.”

VOTE: unanimous

- b) **MOTION by VP: To allow immediate implementation of single players allowable in Opportunity Matches. SECONDED by LW.**

VOTE: unanimous

10. REPORTS ON TOURNAMENTS

- i. Tom Bostock reported on **SVE tournament** and changes to include a Women’s 4.5 division. SVE felt that 4.0 level women were too challenged by 4.5 women in the past and that this new division to improve participation. Tournament offers 2- 1.5 brackets and all regular brackets. The tencap ranges between 4.0 and 4.5 have be altered to 33+ to play 4.0 and 32 or less to play at 4.5 in hopes to improve 4.0 registration. Deadline is Feb 9, 2018. See <https://sites.google.com/site/svetennis/>
- ii. Jerry Mason reported on **SSV tournament**. Their hope is to increase participation, especially at 4.5 level by allowing partners of different clubs to register as a 4.5 team. SSV is using player’s tencaps as of week of Jan 8. Deadline is Feb 23, 2018. See www.SSVtennisclub.org

- iii. Byron Barnard reported on the **MV Roy Wise Team Tournament**. Teams are comprised of 4 men and 4 women at all levels, including 1.5 and 4.5 teams. Because of the uneven distribution of 4.5 players within parks, 4.5 players wishing to play in the MV tournament will register individually and be placed on a blended team (players from different parks) by the tournament committee. Individuals who do not make it onto their club team at 1.5 thru 4.0 levels may also register as individuals and be placed on a blended team. Club teams may also recruit members for their teams from other parks but must use their own players who wish to play prior to recruiting from other parks. A team may register with only 6 players and request the tournament committee to add 2 players if available. Tournament dates are March 23-29, reduced to 5 days and deadline is February 17, 2018. See www.montevistatennisclub.com
 - iv. Mesa Regal reported on upcoming **Mesa Regal 1.5 tournament** to be held February 9-10-11. Details are available on the Mesa Regal website. See <https://mrtennisclub.wikispaces.com/1.5+Tennis+Tournament>
11. Other Discussion
- i. TR recognized the good changes made to the tencap website page making it easier to identify contacts.
 - ii. CM promoted their upcoming Chicken Dinner Sat Feb 17. Tickets through 507-440-1605.
 - iii. Tom Arnold noted the 2 point rule was implemented to assist clubs to make teams. It is not currently in the bylaws and questioned if it should be included. MV noted we should be trying to get people to the correct levels and use pure numbers. AWVV stated that smaller clubs need that flexibility. TA explained reason for the flexibility was to allow clubs to create and keep teams at levels. TR questioned the two points when the bylaws say a 1 point bubble. TP agrees that the flexibility helps keep balance in the teams. TA concluded from presidents' input at this time to exclude the 2 point rule from bylaws but maintain the executive committee's ability to use this flexibility where necessary to maintain team numbers.
 - iv. Tom Walsh (MV) questioned the status of discussion on gender league. TA noted it was voted on by club presidents previously this year [and defeated (14-2)].

Meeting Adjourned

Next General Meeting scheduled for March 27, 2018 at 3pm at VDO

/CB