

Racquet Club General Meeting April 10, 2025 – Minutes DRAFT

Meeting: Called to order by Bob James, President, at 4:30 p.m. on the Lanai.

Members Present: 142

Attendance: Present: Bob James, Ann Rike, Sid Saltzman, John Gildner, Donna Ryan, Robert Kelly, Harvey Bernstein, Felicity Swerdlow

President Bob James recognized the thanked Pro Coaches Sher and Rhoda for there training assistance to the Club and Sher and her four pro player friends for the exhibition demonstration prior to the meeting.

Approval of Minutes: November 7, 2024 General meeting were approved. Motion: Dannica Wood, Second: Tim Griffin, Passed

Treasurer's Report (S. Saltzman): Sid thanked Donna Ryan for filling-in for a few months as Treasurer and Carol Ann Ferrol for her work tracking membership. Balance as of March 31, 2025: \$16,821.16 and 516 members. He noted that Club expenditures and the Treasurer's Report are available on the website.

President B. James welcomed the audience and explained his "Getting On-Board" program for the Board, challenging its members to take leadership of specific activities and introduced them for following reports.

Pickleball Committee – H. Bernstein: Harvey noted the convening of a new committee and recognized its members; Richard Davis, Jeannine Ferrari, Gary Forsberg, Angie Lowrey, Jay Rudman, Jim Seccombe. He described its members as Club Ambassadors with duties to include being visible at the courts, support player questions/concerns, assess court conditions, relate rules and regulations, field questions, and make recommendations. The Committee members and he plan to meet every two months.

Play & Stay – R. Kelly: Robert explained the event as a social gathering combined with Pickleball drop-in on the first Saturday of each month. Each event has a host(s) and is provided a budget for the purchase of snacks and juices/beverages and that it is often themed per holidays, etc. Set-up on the Croquet Lawn, it's a socializing activity with Cornhole play and music. There are seven more planned for the 2025 year.

Volunteer & Sign-ups – D. Ryan: Donna reported that volunteerism is appreciated and helpful to the Club, noting that 170+ members have volunteered just in the first few months of this year and coined a motto (with H. Bernstein) for the volunteer app, "Don't be a dummy, be a SignUp Genius". She and B. James have successfully built the SignUp Genius for use in four volunteer opportunities to date which include "Opportunity Knocks", Women's Pickleball Tournament and the Pickleball Committee. She foresees its use recruiting volunteers for all of the Club events, potentially scheduling a year out, and for sign-ups of participants in classes and an "Available Pickleball Players List" at various levels for members to connect.

Pro Classes – F. Swerdlow: B. James acknowledged Felicity as the brainchild behind the Play & Stay concept. Felicity gave credit to former group that broke play for mimosas! Overseeing the Pro Series classes, she described the two coaching groups. The tandem coaching for Sher and Tanner focus on Low and High Intermediate levels of play in 1-1/2 hour sessions, while Rhoda conducts very busy 2 hour classes for 2-4 p.m. The classes have been well attended and the coaching has received great reviews.

Tournaments – J. Gildner: John reported that of the four racquet sports that the Club supports, only Pickleball has scheduled tournaments, but that if Tennis, Badminton or Paddle Tennis are interested, he is available to help with organization. He described the recent Women's Tournament and Social as successful, but that player teams were lacking and that the Board hopes that the Pro Series, Team Camps and Novice Classes will help feed players into tournaments. He emphasized the fun and social value of player participation and referenced the SignUp Genius as a great tool for becoming an involved volunteer.

Web – S. Saltzman: Sid announced that he and Tim Griffin are restructuring the Club's website for easier navigation and more visible access to areas such as pictures from events. He advised that users may experience times of interruption and inaccessibility while the site is under reconstruction.

Vice President's Report – A. Rike: Ann expressed her enthusiasm for the new Club storage shed. The "Shed" had helped with organization and access to many items and supplies prior kept in multiple areas. She commented on the growing group of energized Tennis players led by Bill McGrath, Greg Smith and Margo Barnard who have organized seasonal socials attracting about 20 participants. Pickleball lessons conducted by the Club's volunteers include monthly Beginner Classes of three 90-minute sessions for up to 6 players, Novice Classes led by Herb Livsey and many inhouse volunteers for six sessions, and an upcoming Team Camp (Edge) for 9 teams led by David Levine and Club volunteers. All classes are intended to build on one another and potentially lead to playing and partnering in Club tournaments. She described a Thursday Drop-in Challenge Court 1 and intentions of organizing more Round Robin play. Ann also detailed new Board approved rules of play with regard to reservations and guests.

President's Message – B. James: Bob opened by thanking the volunteers who organized the meeting, set-up, snacks and beverages. He recognized the Pro Coaches assisting the Club in class trainings and the value they bring to player skills improvement and enjoyment, as well as the renewed interest in Tennis by some Club members. Bob acknowledged John Pashkowsky as the new Photo Chair organizing an ongoing effort to provide pictures for publications and the Recreation Department's Julie Van Dam as well as Chris Bessey for the support they provide the Club when organizing events and Clubhouse logistics. Members of the HOA Master Board, Scott Goldwasser, Allen Wilson and Lois Russell were thanked. He addressed the topic of the Court's Resurfacing project for 2025 and four bids that encompassed the refreshing of the courts and those for resurfacing and possible conversion of Tennis Court 4 to three Pickleball courts and associated fencing. Referencing an additional cost of the conversion over amounts already budgeted and acknowledging required Master Board approval, the majority of attendees by a show of hands were in support of the conversion, while some spoke-up about a resurgence of interest in Tennis, the disappointment in loss of a court, and the potential, additional noise of more Pickleball courts. Bob made an appeal to the audience members for their consideration of being involved in leadership roles of the Club, not only in leading and organizing events but as members of the Club Board of Directors. Bob's conclusion was an inspirational message encouraging members to "Show Up, Be Useful". Outlining his annual mottos for the Club from 2020-24, "Join the Club" for its value, "Just for the Fun of It!", "A Club that Matters", "A Club to Belong", to "Showing Up", he emphasized being present, engaged, and useful.

Meeting Adjourned: 5:30 p.m. Motion: Tim Griffin, Second: Dannica Wood, Passed

John Gildner, Acting Secretary
April 16, 2025