



Minutes for ICTA AGM

November 29, 2022

Sobeys Stadium

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Determination of Quorum
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of 2021 AGM Minutes
4. President's Report
5. By-Laws Amendments – Area of Service to include the Niagara Region, Membership Year Definition and change from Spring General Meeting to May 1.
6. VP Report
7. Treasurer's Update
8. Motions:
 - a) To waive the need for the appointment of Public Accountants
 - b) To increase the ICTA executive honorarium from \$400 to \$500 annually
9. Marketing Report
10. Mixed League Report
11. Ladies League Report
12. Plus 55 League Report
13. Juniors League Report
14. Tournament Report
15. Election of the 2023 Executive Board
16. Proposed date for Spring Meeting
Tuesday, March 28, 2023
17. Other Business
18. Adjournment

1. Call to Order and Determination of Quorum

President Sonja Zibin called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. She noted that we have quorum, with more than 10 clubs present in person or through their proxies in the room. In addition to the club representatives, we have 7 individuals holding proxies for their clubs or other clubs. Sonja read the names of the clubs and their proxyholders, being:

No.	Tennis Club	Proxyholder
1.	Ballantrae	Colette Nemni
2.	Cricket Club	Yenny Musalem
3.	Curran Hall	Rita Strah
4.	Henry Farms	John Mowat
5.	Leaside	Stuart Teather
6.	Pleasantview	Julie Yang
7.	Whiteoaks	Alison Bittle-Fair

Sonja pointed out that we are recording the meeting in order to take minutes. Each club has one vote unless individuals have a proxy for another club. The meeting is being run in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order in order to ensure a proper process for voting on motions.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Gary Bennett from Pine Point
 Second: Lorraine Eaglesham from Unionville
 Motion carried

3. Approval of 2021 AGM Minutes

Motion: Marina Mihailovich from Wishing Well
 Second: Anne Madden from Parkway Valley
 Motion carried

4. President's Report

Sonja thanked Tennis Canada for allowing us the use of the Players' Lounge. She thanked her fellow board members as well as the club reps for being here and for their dedication to clubs, teams and players. She noted many familiar faces as well as some new ones.

She mentioned that 2022 was a special year as we were able to run all 4 leagues for the first time since 2019. She also said that she was very proud about the expansion of the ICTA into the Niagara region this year starting with the Ladies League. She then congratulated the winning teams of all our Leagues and the teams that made it all the way to the Championships.

Finally, Sonja shared with the Club Reps that during the season there were a few instances of players who, allegedly, were paid to play by their respective teams, or they were allowed to play without having to pay club membership fees. For this reason, she thought it was important to remind everyone how the Association interprets the rules when it comes to club membership. For this purpose, she presented a document entitled "Club Member Eligibility for ICTA League Play", which was created in 2017 by the ICTA executives and is an addendum to the League Rules. Sonja added that the content of this document will be emphasized again by all league directors before the start of next season.

5. By-Laws Amendments

- a. Amend the area of Service to include Niagara

Motion: Paul Ward from King City

Second: Angela Kooij from Don Mills

Motion carried.

- b. Shift the Membership Year Definition from Spring General meeting (end of March) to May 1st.

Motion: Marina Mihailovich from Wishing Well

Second: Val Swail from Newmarket

Motion carried.

6. VP Report

Stuart stated that he continued to strengthen the relationship with both OTA and Tennis Canada this year. The focus was on offering more playing opportunities for Juniors and Todd will specifically speak to that. Originally, Tennis Canada seemed to have some funds to develop tennis offerings specific for women, but that program didn't go through.

On another note, we are trying to implement a new registration system that would allow us to take club data, team registration and payment all together. We hope to have it ready by the Spring Meeting.

Lastly, we are studying the potential involvement of the ICTA with two popular global rating system, the UTR and the WTN.

7. Treasurer's Update

Angela reviewed in detail the Income Statement and the Balance Sheet and noted that we had a fantastic year. We are almost back at pre-pandemic levels in terms of number of teams and revenue. She mentioned that sponsors were back, and we also received a special grant of \$5000 from the Ontario Sports Network.

Approval of the Financial Statement:

Motion: Val Swail from Newmarket

Second: Lorraine Eaglesham from Unionville

Motion carried.

Other motions:

- a) To waive the need for the appointment of Public Accountants

Motion: Anne Madden from Parkway Valley

Second: Gary Bennett from Pine Point

Motion carried.

- b) To increase the ICTA Director honorariums from \$400 to \$500 annually (2011 was the last time we increased the amount)

Motion: Alison Bittle-Fair from Whiteoaks

Second: Kelli Leizer from Sir Winston Churchill

Motion carried.

8. Marketing Report

Alison noted that we had a strong recruiting program this year with the combined efforts between Marketing and the League Directors.

Marketing has increased the number of posts on the ICTA website, including Yonex event days, Juniors event days, social calendar events. We always welcome ideas for additional posts that would appeal to our readers.

Social Media posting on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram started the year off well, but have fallen off a bit, so expect those to resume.

Our sponsorship amount increased from \$3,000 in 2021 to \$5,000 in 2022. Alison took this opportunity to thank our valued sponsors: Merchant of Tennis, Yonex and the OTA.

When Alison reminded the Club Reps to keep thinking about potential new sponsors for the ICTA, it was noted that our Association is the largest of its kind in Canada and that we have about 7200 players in our Leagues, a number which is certainly a great marketing tool.

9. Mixed League Report

Sonja presented the report on behalf of David and said that this year we had 19 divisions for a total of 133 teams: 8 in Majors, 30 in A, 48 in B and 47 in C. The goal for 2023 is a 10% increase to 146 teams.

The Open line format was successfully implemented for Majors, bringing now all 4 levels of play to run on an identical format. Promotions and relegations will be confirmed in February 2023.

There will be some proposed rule changes at the Spring Meeting. Here is an initial list:

1. All matches should go to a 3rd set tie break (motion proposed by Mark Paklepa, from Lambton);
2. A maximum time of 1 hour and 45 minutes for the first two sets must be played before it mandatorily goes to a 3rd set tie break (proposed by David);
3. Mandatory A or Major placement for current NCAA players - division 1, 2 and 3. They should not play in B (proposed by David);
4. Implementation of a specific penalty for hitting another player with a ball or racquet (proposed by Gary Bennett from Pine Point);
5. Whether to reinstate food and refreshment at Mixed League matches.

Club reps were reminded that if they want to put forward any other motion, they need to submit them to the ICTA Board at least 30 days prior to the Spring Meeting.

10. Ladies League Report

Kelly stated that this year we had 9 divisions for a total of 59 teams, 8 in Majors, 26 in A and 25 in B. The Ladies League ran for the first time ever in the Niagara Region with 4 teams. The increase in number of teams from 2021 was by over 400%, and our goal for 2023 is a 20% increase to 79 teams, as well as adding a C division. Promotions and relegations will be confirmed in February 2023.

The Ladies League will also present some motions on rule changes at the Spring Meeting.

Kelly thanked all the other League Directors for their help throughout the season and also all the division chairs, captains and players.

11. Plus 55+ League Report

Marina stated that 2022, as a first post-Covid season, was not a disappointment, and although it had had its challenges, there were also many bright moments. There were 40 teams registered, divided in three levels, A, B and C. The Division Chairs were very active in keeping open communication with all team captains and co-captains and helped them with their needs. The goal for 2023 is to increase the number of teams and clubs participating in the League.

Marina added that she and her Division Chairs are working on some rule changes, all based on this season's experience and individual suggestions, and these will be presented at the Spring Meeting.

12. Juniors League Report

Todd noted that this year we only had 25 teams, a huge decrease compared to 2018 when we had 67, and 2019 when we had 60 teams. The decrease was due to both internal challenges (lack of club support, court availability, tennis lessons, presence of similar leagues and extensive travel time) and external challenges (Covid, competition with OTA Tournaments, and more juniors training in Academies rather than in Community Clubs).

Beside the regular Juniors Leagues, the ICTA ran two regional Tennis ROCKS Events in partnership with Tennis Canada and the OTA, one in Unionville and one in Milton. The winners of these events were invited to participate in the Championships at the Sobeys Stadium, where they got to play on Centre Court.

On a different weekend, and still at the Sobeys Stadium, Todd also ran the 1st Annual ICTA Juniors Mixed Team Championships, an invitation-only event for 28 Juniors who played in the ICTA Mixed League and with a UTR of 6.0+, which was a huge success.

Finally, Todd presented some ideas to grow the junior offering in 2023, such as asking clubs to provide greater support by making more courts available on the weekends for junior play, work with the OTA and TC to assign Rogers Rookie Tour points for Juniors League matches, reduce the Juniors League team fees, and offering 4 categories of leagues: Superstars (4 U14 players), AllStars (4 U18 players), MiniStars (4 U12 players – green dot ball league), and MegaStars (Juniors Mixed League with UTR verified matches)

13. Tournament Report

Yenny stated that we enjoyed great weather and great tennis at the ICTA Championships, which were held on September 24th and 25th at the Sobeys Stadium. She thanked all the participants and volunteers and praised both the display of talent and the sportsmanship demonstrated by all players and captains. She mentioned that we could use more help and encouraged the Club Reps to assist us in spreading the word in order to recruit more volunteers for next year.

14. CIO report

Mark noted that the ICTA website registered this year over 2.6 million hits. The Top 5 pages with most hits were the Mixed League Winners, the Ladies League Winners, About Us, the ICTA Nominees, the AGM. Of particular interest are the top 5 origin locations that access intercountytennis.com, and they are the United States, Canada, Russia, Mexico and the Netherlands.

Mark announced that we now have a New Gallery Viewing Area where all the photos are displayed for easier access and a new Tournament Results Page, which is maintained by Yenny.

15. Election of the 2023 Executive Board

The Nominating Committee was formed this year by Todd, Marina and Kelly. Todd, who was appointed as the Chair of the Committee, led the election process. He explained that this year all the board members would like to return in their roles for 2023, but the secretary position is contested by one candidate, and that is why we need to have an election. He asked if there was anyone else who wanted to run from the floor for any of the positions, but there wasn't. At this

point, he requested the assistance of two scrutineers and Val Swail from Newmarket and Mark Zdaniuk from East York raised their hands.

Motion to accept Val and Mark as scrutineers: Sam Yang from Pleasantview
Second: Melissa Unidad from Hillcrest
Motion carried.

Todd invited Colette Nemni and Julie Yang to make a short presentation to the audience. There were no questions to either of them. The ballot collection began and then the scrutineers went to a separate room to count the votes.

In the meantime, Sonja announced that we needed to approve the slate, minus the Secretary position:

Motion: Gary Bennett from Pine Point
Second: Paul Ward from King City
Motion carried.

Todd announced that the election winner is Colette Nemni and thanked Julie for her service on the Board. Sonja joined Todd in thanking Julie.

These are the Board Members elected for 2023:

President	Sonja Zibin
Vice President	Stuart Teather
Treasurer	Angela Kooij
CIO	Mark Foon
Secretary	Colette Nemni
Marketing Director	Alison Bittle-Fair
Tournament Director	Yenny Musalem
Ladies League Director	Kelly Stobbe
Mixed League Director	David Maples
+55 League Director	Marina Mihailovich
Juniors League Director	Todd Orrett

Todd stated that we needed a motion to destroy all the ballots.

Motion: Marina Mihailovich from Wishing Well
Second: Melissa Unidad from Hillcrest
Motion carried.

16. Proposed date for Spring Meeting

Tuesday, March 28, 2023

17. **Other Business**

None.

18. **Adjournment**

Motion: Val Swail from Newmarket

Second: Lorraine Eaglesham from Unionville

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm.