



## Yankee Board Meeting

10/26/2023, 7:00 PM

Zoom Meeting

Board Members Attending: Jeffry, Judy, Geoff, Mark, Miriam, John, Nick, Amy

Board Member Absences: Lauren

Guests: Dave Peixoto, Tom Cassell, Aaron Jessee, Corey Day, Jimmy Guo, Huy Tran, Paul Perez, Steve Simmons, Matt Mullen, Brendan Lounsbury, Matt Melnychuk

### **1. Approval of Prior Minutes**

- a. Prior minutes were distributed to be voted on.

### **2. Reports**

- a. Registrar's Report (Jeffry)
  - i. Over 2000 adult members already, at this time last year there were 847.
  - ii. Membership is almost to 50% of last year's total in just about a month and a half.
  - iii. 227 new members at this point as opposed to 133 at the same measuring point last year.
  - iv. 70 new players already signed up for the coming weekend.
  - v. Membership is running at about 60% Male, 40% Female which is similar to last year.
  - vi. Solid chance that we surpass 3,000 members this year.
- b. NERVA Report (Dave)
  - i. October 1<sup>st</sup> registration went live for NERVA events and within 5 days all events were at 80-85% of capacity.
  - ii. For BCC this year adults will have 10 courts each weekend.
  - iii. In 2025 Nerva does not have the Boston Convention Center on consecutive weekends and also does not have the full facility.
  - iv. Adults will likely be on Easter weekend next year for BCC.
  - v. In 2024 the Aces Wild tournament will turn into Rhode Island Rampage in Providence between Christmas and New Year's. The same will be true for 2025 then back to Mohegan Sun for 2026.
- c. Ratings Report (Jeffry)
- d. Social Media Report (Amy)
  - i. Provided before the meeting via email by Amy.
  - ii. Current followers on Facebook is 3704 (with 60 new this year) and Instagram is at 1745 (with 91 new this year)
  - iii. Posts about Aces Wild at Mohegan and uprate posts had the most interaction.
  - iv. Added a hyperlink to MSVBA site for reffing video and will continue to try to get out information to improve work teams.
  - v. Advertising for Aces Wild worked perhaps too well since it crashed our site but we clearly reached our community.
- e. Web Editor Report (Jeffry)
  - i. Brendan Lounsbury has been hired by the region with his primary responsibility being to overhaul both Juniors and Adult web sites. He is heading our efforts towards a new Yankee web site.
  - ii. Brendan joined the meeting to update us on progress. Jeffry and Brendan met to determine end goals.
  - iii. Integration with Sports Engine is a primary goal to limit the amount of hand work required on entering players into the system.
  - iv. Many wish list items with added security also being a key focus.
  - v. Currently in the research and analysis phase, once that is complete we will move to the design phase. That part will be brought to the board and once approved will move to the development phase with the goal to be complete in the summer of 2024.

- vi. Stronger permissions for tournament editing was brought up as a needed item. John and Jeffry will sit down to go over needs from the Tournament Director view.
- vii. Our site is currently many revisions out of date.
- f. GrassRoots Campaign Report (Jeffry)
  - i. For the first time Yankee ran a scramble without officials and it went fairly well with about half of the players being new players.
  - ii. Miriam will be running the next scramble.
  - iii. Zack Dalton ran a scramble in Maine and Jimmy Guo is interested in running a Connecticut scramble. Judy will reach out to Jimmy about some subsidies.
- g. Tournament Director's Report (Mark)
  - i. For Aces Wild the first run of registration on September 26<sup>th</sup> overloaded the web site. Mark could not get on to list the tournaments.
  - ii. Our Facebook page posted an update about the postponed registration.
  - iii. Jeffry contacted web editor to deal with some of the issues and did a few things to alleviate the overload adding more RAM (at a cost of course).
  - iv. Decision was made to spread out the sign-ups across three nights.
  - v. October 12<sup>th</sup> opened at 9 pm and there were no issues. 79 team spots were available with 78 paid for by the end of the night.
  - vi. On October 16<sup>th</sup> everything filled with no real issues. The Women's C+, Men's C+ and RCO C+ were all full in less than 4 minutes.
  - vii. On October 17<sup>th</sup> for the B- and above tournaments Mark had trouble getting the tournaments uploaded due to heavy traffic. 71 spots opened and all were filled.
  - viii. Last year Men's Open was given 10 spots and only ended up with 5. This year it was assigned 5 spots and quickly had 16 teams paid. Expanded to 10 teams still 6 on wait list. 5 teams Women's Open had 4 teams on wait list. RCO Open filled 10 teams (and had one on wait list that then dropped).
  - ix. Due to the heavy traffic and number of registrants the 17<sup>th</sup> took longer to go through time stamps and was about 2.5 hours before completed that task.
  - x. May have to look at minimum ratings or choosing strongest rosters for Open divisions as multiple B- teams entered Open after not getting in for the B- level.
  - xi. Women's tournaments look to be filling better than last year especially at B- level.
  - xii. This is the first year Maine tournaments are on our web site and seems to be going well. The Lewiston tourneys scheduled for the coming weekend were cancelled after the tragic events there. MSVBA will hold a fundraiser in the coming months

### 3. New Business

- a. Mohegan tournament planning/summary
  - i. Tournament is pretty much full.
  - ii. Mark, Corinne, Judy and Brendan will be running the tournament.
  - iii. There will be no referees so court managers will be used again.
  - iv. We will have certified officials work finals as much as we are able to.
  - v. The players party at Game On will be a private event this year.
  - vi. Amy will get players party information onto Facebook.
  - vii. Convention Center tournaments are expensive especially when factoring in the players party and Mohegan lost about \$60,000 last year.
  - viii. For adult events we are limited to 18-19 court facilities as adults do not take enough hotel rooms to meet the requirements of bigger facilities.
  - ix. Looking at running AM and PM waves may be something we need to do in the future.
  - x. Trying to get Sportswrench as a way to register for convention center tournaments off the ground. This would allow us to use QR codes instead of wristbands and able to use the scoring as a way to minimize time and effort.
- b. BCC registration process/planning
  - i. No perfect way to do it. Some want a lottery but issue with that is 6 people from the same team signing up.
  - ii. Captain incentives where frequent captains get a percentage of the spots and the rest are a lottery was discussed as an incentive/reward for captains that make Yankee run. Champs tournaments in the past had required a certain amount of tournaments to get a spot.

- iii. BCC is smaller and spread over two weekends this year. Friday night is available to us both weekends.
  - c. Nationals mapping discussion
    - i. No mappings were used last year. Some feedback received that we should set limits at the lower level.
    - ii. There is a push to have Nationals go to a single weekend going forward, mappings discussion tabled until more details on that.
  - d. New website progress/discussions
    - i. Covered in web editor report.
  - e. Improving player reffing
    - i. Have added a direct link to the video that Samantha Commeau has on the Maine website.
    - ii. Amy is working on social media posts designed to educate on key points of officiating.
    - iii. Unlikely to get refs for adult tournaments as the demand for Juniors events is so high.
    - iv. Will work to add some online resources.
  - f. Elections this year
    - i. Elections will be held in the Spring.
    - ii. Have to finalize the proposal to stagger elections to avoid complete turnover of the board and potentially adding board experience required to run for President or Vice President.
  - g. Yankee document reviews
    - i. Need to review that all are up to date and can be found on the web site.
  - h. Proposal to have how each board member votes listed in the minutes
    - i. No reason not to be transparent and will be done going forward.
  - i. Flat tournaments (early feedback and structuring of RCOs specifically – balancing genders at 0 points and only allowing +1 players)
    - i. Feedback on the flat tournaments has been positive so far.
    - ii. Should be 0 points for both genders currently.
  - j. Various rules of play proposals from members
    - i. Process for submitting proposals
      - 1. Should come up with a google form for submitting proposals.
    - ii. Scheduling more women's B- and above tournaments
      - 1. Covered earlier.
    - iii. Clarifying/modifying the rule for blocking when having a female setter
      - 1. There must be a block touch for it to be called illegal.
      - 2. Rule should be simplified and/or clarified as currently different people have different answers.
    - iv. Limiting individual guys to +1 for RCOs
      - 1. Too limiting for chances to play and should give time to see how having a mix of flat and +3 tournaments does.
    - v. Going back to females counting for 1 point less in men's tournaments
      - 1. This rule was just put in so will not be changing back currently.
    - vi. Guys blocking guys in RCO
      - 1. Briefly discussed
    - vii. Allowing back row female to hit at the net as opposed to just block
      - 1. Briefly discussed
    - viii. Requiring teams to meet a minimum point threshold for convention center tournaments (to prevent teams that miss out on lower level from taking a spot well above their team rating)
      - 1. Discussed earlier.

#### 4. Old Business

- a. Discussion on amending rule for replacement of injured players early in the day
  - i. Will likely go to the Champs rule. Jeffry will locate the wording and we will review.
- b. Term lengths for board members and potentially staggering elections
- c. Tournament directors running more than two courts and playing and their ability to manage that.
  - i. Must hire a tournament director if running more than two courts and playing.
- d. Separate ratings for RCO proposal (to go along with new web site)
  - i. Will propose and vote on when new website gets closer to reality.

e. College showcase idea proposal or discussion

**5. Executive Session was held**

**Key Future Dates**

**Mohegan Sun December 15-17**

**BCC February 23-25 and March 1-3**

**USAV Open Nationals May 24-29 Columbus, OH**

**2024 Picnic June 16th**