

**GOLDEN RACQUETS**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Minutes – October 9, 2024**  
**Braddock Hall, Burke, Virginia**

**PRESENT:**

Doug White	President
Al McFarland	Treasurer
Suzanne White	Secretary
Art Politano	Ratings Chair
Ed Falkowitz	Deputy Information Officer
Fred King	Tennis Operations Chair
Karla Vernon	Pickleball Operations Chair
Mike McGurrin	Deputy Treasurer

**CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

President Doug White called the meeting to order at 9:06 AM and welcomed those present.

**REPORTS**

**President**

President Doug White announced the recent resignations of Membership Chair Al Bready and Past President Tom Burroughs and thanked them for their service to Golden Racquets. He passed around cards for Board members to sign that will be sent to each of them.

**Information Team**

Doug White reported on the sign-up process for the fall/winter season and indicated that is likely that Jeff Feldmesser will take over as Chief Information Officer as of 1/1/25.

**Treasurer**

Treasurer Al McFarland presented the Board with a written report providing an overview of the Golden Racquets current financial position, indicating that there are six unpaid player winter bills and net assets in the amount of \$11,583.94. As Mr. McFarland will step down as Treasurer at the end of the year, it was agreed that a transition meeting would be held on November 13, 2024. It was further agreed that Ed Falkowitz would perform the 2024 Golden Racquets financial records review.

**Ratings Chair**

Ratings Chair Art Politano provided a written report for Board review. The pilot program for the summer data-based review worked well, but input was received from only 10 of 24 summer captains. As Mr. Politano will step down as Ratings Chair at the end of the year, he reported that no successor has been identified to take over. He did suggest that new member onboarding can be expedited if done on an ongoing basis using a player self-rating form and placement with an appropriate rated group, Skill level to be confirmed by the venue captain once the player is placed. He also recommended a more efficient 2-year review process.

**Tennis Operations**

Tennis Operations Chair Fred King reported that the fall/winter season is going well, but asked about the stability of Golden Racquets membership given that there were a number of venues and courts that were canceled due to lack of sign-up. Mr. White reported that membership numbers have remained relatively the same over the past few years. Mr. King gave an update on court conditions at Wakefield and Mason, suggesting that this information be shared with the membership. It seems that the Arlington Y will remain a viable venue for the next two years and the Skyline Club may be an

option for an additional indoor venue for next season. Mr. Kings also referenced the difficulty that some members are having finding subs based on whether or not they elect to charge the sub fee. He suggested that GR might ask people to indicate if they are willing to pay a sub fee when they sign up as subs.

### **Pickleball Operations**

Chair Karla Vernon reported that the fall/winter season is going well and that she has been able to resolve any issues that have arisen. She is interested in exploring Cunningham Park as an additional venue.

## **MATTERS FOR BOARD DECISION**

### **New Treasurer for 2025**

Current Deputy Information Officer Ed Falkowitz has volunteered to serve as Golden Racquets Treasurer as of 1/1/25. Mr. White **MOVED** to appoint Mr. Falkowitz as Treasurer, effective 1/1/25, pending confirmation at the Golden Racquets Annual Meeting. The motion was **SECONDED** by Mr. King and **PASSED** unanimously.

### **Payment Methods for 2025**

Effective 1/1/25, Golden Racquets will accept payment in the form of checks, Zelle, and credit cards. Accordingly, this will require an amendment to the Golden Racquets constitution, which currently stipulates checks as the only accepted form of payment. Mr. White will verify with Chase Bank any charges associated with these forms of payment that would be charged to the Golden Racquets account.

### **Costs for Indoor Venues**

The Board discussed how the calculations are made with respect to how players are charged for indoor venue costs each season. The Golden Racquets constitution calls for those costs to be averaged, however, doing so results in some venues being subsidized. In order to correct this, the Board discussed having each venue's costs passed through to players according to where the members are signed up to play. It was agreed that this issue should be put to the membership via an electronic vote. Pending the outcome of any vote, the Golden Racquets constitution would be amended accordingly.

## **MATTERS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION**

### **Volunteers Needed**

Given that the Chief Information Officer, Ratings Chair and Membership Chair positions remain open, it was agreed that a general call for volunteers to fill these positions would be made over the next few weeks in an attempt to fill the vacancies.

### **Social Events**

The required Annual Meeting needs to be scheduled. Members have expressed interest in having tennis and pickle ball parties. Volunteers will be needed to plan and staff these events. A pickle ball party was proposed for some time in January 2025.

### **Website and Newsletter Maintenance**

Mr. White raised the issue of continuing to publish a Golden Racquets newsletter, given the lack of volunteers to provide content. He suggested eliminating the newsletter and posting content on the Golden Racquets website for members to peruse as they wish.

### **Court Etiquette**

Mr. White noted that perhaps a reminder to all members is needed with regard to on court behavior. He has noted that there has been a lack of adherence to guidelines on calling the score before serving, line call protocol, gratuitous coaching during play, lack of respect toward fellow players, and entering and exiting courts in a nondisruptive fashion.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. White thanked those present for attending and **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 10:46 AM. The motion was **SECONDED** by Mr. Politano and **PASSED** unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:

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Suzanne White, Board Secretary

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Date