

**Balboa Tennis Club Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**November 23, 2021**

**Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.**

**Attendees:** Janene Christopher, Gary Smith, Michelle Ford, Todd Linke, M.A. Hillier, and Colleen Clery Ferrell. Ruben Carriedo was absent. Andrew McFarlane was present for the first agenda item (Guest Presentations), then needed to depart the meeting.

**Minutes Approval:** The October 2021 Board Meeting Minutes and absence were approved.  
**MMSC**

**Guest Presentations** - There were seven speakers, with one being a group of three. These individuals signed up to speak about the petition distributed to members, from a member of the club, supporting those who were suspended from the Club for the Reservations System Issue. They were allowed five minutes each. Todd Linke had a timer on for each speaker. Tony Szymczak insisted he sent the director an email requesting to speak so he spoke while waiting for Joe Barraquino to show up for his appointed time of 7:05 p.m.

1. **Nhat Nguyen** - Nhat has only been a member for a year. He didn't know anyone at the Club. He would often show up and play with Ping Wu's group on Saturday afternoon or Will Garber's group on Saturday morning or Monday nights for the "love of the game." Playing in a group was fun," he said. He would like to get the groups back at BTC. He is asking for the players involved in the Reservation System issue to get their suspensions reduced. "It doesn't mean that what they did was right, but nobody deserves to be banned. They need to learn from their lesson. The penalty is too harsh. Please reconsider as this is the season of giving - even better to forgive. Get the players back - reconsider."

2. **Julia Gregory to speak, followed by Esther Leeftang and Cindy Driver.** She has been a member for 20 years and also served as Treasurer for the Board of Directors. Should the penalties to the cheaters be reduced? No - This is a social welfare organization. Discipline is necessary and appropriate. All involved should receive punishment. **Esther Leeftang** - She is a league captain and former board member. The petition for player suspension reductions for hacking or gaming showed a lack of remorse with no moral compass. They thought it was ok to gain. Esther stated, "As to the character assassination the petitioner refers to, heretofore the BTC members were not apprised of any of the cheaters' names, except for two cheaters, as per the August 17<sup>th</sup> board minutes. Character assassination is what happens when the person in question has not done anything at all to warrant a negative reaction. This is not the case here. The persons involved were willing participants in an immoral and unethical scheme." It's rude to think that people would ask for reduced suspensions. This action should be denied. What the cheaters did was wrong. **Cindy Driver** - She doesn't think these people who sent out the petition realize how outraged the membership is over the Reservation Booking Issue. In the petition, there is no acknowledgement of remorse. Their actions affected over 1000 members. She is formally requesting the sanctions be admitted. She believes all parties involved should be sanctioned.

3. **Aayush Khurana** - He was a new member with nobody to play with. Ping Wu responded and welcomed Aayush. It was a very diverse group. He found a group and felt a sense of belonging. In regards to the penalties, there was no warning. Aayush believes that everyone deserves a second chance - including Ping Wu.

4. **Ping Wu** - He was unable to attend any earlier meeting because he was coaching a high school team. He wrote a letter in late August - apologizing for the Saturday 3:00 p.m. ladder that he organized. He hopes everyone comes to a fair resolve. He started to read the letter he wrote to the Board. During the pandemic back in May 2020, he decided to keep playing tennis and by word of mouth, he organized a group gathering. It was for all levels and everyone had fun. It was Saturday afternoon tennis with pot luck after. Ping volunteered to be the organizer. The players booked courts for three hours, back to back. He thought about asking Colleen if he could reserve ahead of time. In retrospect, he said he should have asked. Players agreed to start sharing their usernames and passwords to get the courts ahead of time. Then the script was created to help him get courts at 7:45 a.m. In the end, he was the only one of the group to use the script. Time ran out at this point.

5. **Paul Menifee** - Ping Wu is a good friend of Paul. He said Ping Wu should not be banned for life. **Mendel Boudjnah spoke at this time during Paul's time slot.** Mendel spoke on giving forgiveness for misdemeanors. He said Ping is an integral person of the tennis community. All these people who were involved with Ping's group were very close and not just tennis buddies. They were involved with work, family, life and monthly potlucks. We are mourning the loss of Ping. He is humble and has apologized. Who did he harm? In the spirit of forgiveness....time up.

6. **Neil Cokriwala** - Neil apologized and feels sorry for what he did. Neil has been playing tennis for 20 years. He was involved with Ping's Saturday afternoon group. Ping invented a new format which allowed Neil to meet over 85 people. Ping tried to get courts for the group. This was not out of malicious behavior. Ping apologized and is sorry his behavior affected others. Neil was involved by giving out his username and password. He heard that if he apologized, he might get a lesser sentence.

7. **Tony Szymczak** - He first wanted to apologize for the Reservation Booking Issue. He said how the group gatherings orchestrated by Ping were a huge value as he met 10 new people at the tennis gatherings. They created a sense of community. **Mendel Boudjnah spoke again saying,** "There is deep hurt in the community. These people shouldn't be punished. We want to see this resolved. **Esther Leeftang replied back from the audience,** "Too little too late."

7. **Joe Barraquino** - Ping is an outstanding and selfless guy. The group didn't know each other and he developed a sense of community. He is not speaking to justify Ping but is speaking on behalf of the community. Ping always secured the courts for everyone else. There is nothing in the bylaws regarding what he did. Joe said he is not defending Ping's actions and he understands why the sanctions were placed. He doesn't feel like a ban for life is fair.

\*After verbal exchanges from the crowd, several board members spoke up to restore order. The crowd dispersed and the November Board Meeting continued.

## **President's Comments (Janene Christopher)** None

### **Club Director's Report (Colleen Clery Ferrell)**

- A. **BTC Holiday Party scheduled for December 8** - The Board decided to cancel this year's party due to COVID and have a private BTC Board dinner instead to celebrate Janene and Ruben as their terms are expiring.
- B. **Kearns Pool 90th Year Celebration** - The pool adjacent to the Club is celebrating 90 years of existence and they would like to invite BTC members to their celebration. BTC will be celebrating #100 in June.
- C. **Yelp Account** - Janene noticed some negative comments regarding Balboa Tennis Club that needed to be addressed by Colleen. New positive comments from the community regarding BTC are encouraged for the Yelp website.
- D. **Daily Log Notes and Membership Totals and Court usage** - Membership is at 1562 with cap at 1625. Additional members will be invited this month. Overall court usage rate for the month of October is at 76%.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Budget and Finance (Colleen)**

- **Club Finances** - There is \$154,619 in the bank at the end of October 2021, with \$50k set aside for reserves. Daily permit and membership income continue to be strong. This month also showed tournament income from the Metropolitan Tournament, with a surprising net profit of \$2746. There were expenses for squeegee and net purchases during the month and a shocking increase in the SDG&E bill for BTC compared to last year, which will be addressed. The total net income for the month of October was \$4718 after depreciation. Year to Date (YTD), most of the net income is from daily permits and memberships. Expenses comparison with 2020 is skewed due to the lack of tournament play last year because of COVID. The bottom line for YTD income is at \$51,690, which is very positive. Budget vs. Actual for October shows the Club with a net income of \$4718 when a -\$7689 loss was expected. YTD Budget vs Actual net income is at \$74k over budgeted figure which is a combination of membership, daily permits and tournament income. Budget for 2022 will be more accurate with tournament revenue and expenses being more predictable.
- **Facilities**
  - Excel hand dryers have been installed in the ladies and men's restrooms.
  - Court stains on courts 22-23, 16-18 are from the most recent rain when the eucalyptus bark fell from the trees due to excessive wind and stained the courts. The next round of court washing will reveal whether the staining will come off.
- **Constitution and Bylaws** - The election has been completed for 2022-2023 with Mario Suarez, Maegen Demko and Todd Linke being elected by the members to serve.
- **Employment and Personnel** - none
- **Ethics** - none

### **Contract and Lease**

- **Cafe** - Cafe provided food for the Turkey Shoot Social after the tennis round robin.
- **Griffin Tennis** - Signed contracts and business licenses due December 1, 2021.

### **Other**

- **Newsletter** - Next edition December 2021. Currently in the writing phase.
- **Website** - none.
- **Advertising** - Inside Tennis Magazine requesting ad price for 2022 at \$625 per ad/ four times a year. Board agreed to the January addition ad and then have the new BTC Board for 2022 decide whether to continue with the other three ads. **MMSC**  
**1 member abstaining.**
- **Fundraising** - none

### **Unfinished Business**

- **Community Courts Liability Insurance** - Still in the researching phase. No quote issued yet.
- **Press Pavillion Plaque** - Non agenda item that was erroneously left off. Colleen will contact the Press family regarding space on the wall for 5K donor plaque.prior to December meeting.

### **New Business**

- **Request for Reinstatement of Special Use Fees for leagues** - Denied - Board would like league captains to look within the club for BTC teammates.
- **Tennis Fest** - May 15, 2022 date approved by the BTC Board of Directors.
- **Request for Refund for Katrien Maes** - Cash refund denied. Ok for punch pass refund.
- **Flex League Discount** - Approved for BTC Members and guests. **MMSC**. Board recommends scheduling matches during non prime time.
- **Outside Court Fees for 2022** - The court fee of \$15 per court per hour will apply to all groups renting courts including the San Diego District Tennis Association. Exceptions will need approval from the Board.
- **Military Membership Redefined** - Active Military members and spouses will continue to receive the discounted membership. Retired Military Members do not qualify for the discount until 65 years of age or reentry into the military.

**Adjournment: 8:25 p.m.**

**The next board meeting will be December 21, 2021**

