

# Saanich Tennis Club

## Annual General Meeting - January 17, 2016

Present: Vicky Coutts, Mark Lyn, Cathy Nettleton, Sheila Biondo, Shirley Marsh, Dorothy Barlow, Serene Ford, Terry Coulter, Diane ----??., Mike Meagher, Peter Bratt, Sherri Andrews, Yutaka Yoshida, Jeff Cutler, Valerie Small, Bill Adair, Janet Martin, Michael Poplawski, Ann Sherbrook, Rich Wanbon, Fran Burbidge, Jane Cunnington, Jim Howie, Judy Huff, Karen Taber, Bill Bradley, Dave Metcalfe, Dan Ho

<b>Agenda Item and discussion</b>	<b>Action</b>
Approval of 2014 AGM Minutes	Motion – Jane, Seconded – Shirley - All approved
Approval of 2015 Special General Meeting Minutes	Motion – Shirley, Seconded – Janet - All approved
Membership Report – Appendix 1 — waivers to be signed by all members Lucky winner of a free membership is Chat Brachat	Codes will be sent out once you have paid your membership fees
Treasurer’s Report – see accompanying document for financial statements at 2015 Fiscal Year End	Motion to approve report and financial statements – Jim, Seconded – Mike Meagher, All approved
President’s Report – see Appendix 2	
Activity Report – see President’s Report for summary Jane commented that the singles ladder was a huge success and brought in a lot of new members as well as the Junior Program Drops ins – some well attended and some not so much – discussion – Jane – on line sign up not being used consistently, how can we get people to use it more? Shirley – Friday nights and Sunday nights used to be very popular but doesn’t seem to be the case anymore??? Rich – vehicle for signing up is great but we need to be using it more – some reluctant to put their names on if there isn’t anyone signed up when in fact there was a good turnout. Mike – how about trying to get people to commit to be there on a certain night Janet – need more marketing on it Yutaka – how about putting a web cam up so you can see if anyone is playing	
Junior Program Update – Rich Successful – overall numbers have increased about 50% – average of 20 – 24 kids each Monday - quite a few girls in the program	
SITA Update – Mike – Summary – see attached - Financial supports – good supports to attract juniors – what about attracting seniors to tennis. There	

was a suggestion that SITA will be asking clubs to utilize a portion of club fees for SITA donation.



SITA 2015  
ACTIVITIES TO SAAN

New Business –

- a) Falling trees and vandalism – thanks to Dave Metcalf for taking pictures and for notifying Rich and Saanich Police of the vandalism to the clubhouse – spray paint on the club house and sign – no physical damage – apparently the public gate was left open – Rich called Saanich who said the gate was not secured. This has been a recurring issue over the year. Neighbours have reported that the gate has been left wide open for three weeks.

Windstorm – one of the trees on the south side of the property came down and took out the top bar of the fence line – no damage to the club house fortunately – we need to have this fixed – one quote so far \$700 and still trying to get a second quote. Saanich Parks will cover half of this. Deductible on our insurance of \$500 so may not be worth it to go through insurance

- b) BC Hydro Redevelopment Update – BC Hydro will put a secondary access through the parking area. A couple of days a year they may need to use this. We cannot expand our club to 4 courts because of this. We could expand to 3 courts but parking will be an issue. Rich has advocated for STC and the neighbourhood at Saanich Council meetings with concerns of this lack of expansion support and the lack of adequate parking in general for STC, Brydon Park and the neighbours on Viewmont Ave.
- c) Status of future planning for STC courts - Rich informed the group that he's working on the possibility of relocation with a couple of options being currently considered.

Suggestion from a member to consider a tennis – pickleball club. Rich has noted that one of the key restrictions is finding enough land for four tennis courts so merging with pickleball may be even more challenging.....but this is certainly an option to consider if land, funding and membership interest become evident.

- d) New Policy & Procedures – the executive spent some time working on new policies around the following (to be posted on our website):

Organized Activities

Fee-for Service Activities

Rich discussing with Saanich Parks to plan for complete clean-up.  
Jane has spoken to someone re cleaning up the graffiti – much of the work has been done at this point – still need to be completed

If you see that the gate is left open please notify the Executive

Rich will try to get second quote for the fence repair

Alcohol Use – policy to protect club and also to inform what the bylaws are for our members and guests. STC cannot sell or store alcohol on the premises. However, there is nothing to say that you cannot come with your alcohol during the club hours if liquor laws are followed and all liquor supplies are removed upon leaving STC grounds.

- e) Brief review of Constitution changes
- f) Election of the 2016 Board of Directors – Jane

Directors of Large removed during the previous Special General Meeting.  
2016 Executive now consists of:

Past President – Jane continues her ex-officio position  
President – Jane nominated Rich Wanbon - acclaimed  
Vice President – Jane nominates Bill Bradley - acclaimed  
Treasurer – Jane nominates Jim Howie - acclaimed  
Secretary – Shirley nominates Fran Burbidge – acclaimed

New Positions:

Membership and volunteer Director – Shirley nominates Judy Huff – acclaimed  
Communications Director – Rich nominates Mike Poplawski – acclaimed  
Activities Director – no nominations – unfilled (tasks to be completed by Executive group unless a member can be appointed by the Executive). Jane Cunnington and Shirley Marsh offered to lead these tasks  
Junior Program Director – Rich nominates Chad Brachat – acclaimed  
Facility Director – Mike nominates Yutaka Yoshida – acclaimed

Rich thanked Sunny Schlagintweit and Shirley Marsh for their volunteered time and efforts in supporting the STC Executive in 2015 and earlier.

Questions and Answer period

Mike Meagher – can we have a place where minutes and everything else is posted at the club site – there are binders at the clubhouse which need to be updated. We are hoping to have this available to our members and keep it within the membership and confidential. Plan is to make the website accessible to different kinds of access. AGM minutes are to be made available to the public as well as the Financial report.

Question from Mike about team tennis and interclub play. This did not happen in 2015 because previous interest in this faded given the number of other activities ongoing at STC. The Executive will discuss this again for 2016.

Pay Pal – the new registration process. We now have a Paypal account but do not have it up and working yet. Helpful for people to register for programs and to pay their annual fees for registration. Still need to do more work on this. Mike Poplawski and Peter Havlik working on the online registration forms.

Fran to update binders with 2015 and 2016 minutes

Mike to email ideas to Rich – Rich may include in another survey

Court conditions – in our Special General Meeting in July 2015, it was decided that we would not do any major repairs this year. This will be revisited again in the next 6 months.	
Adjournment – move to adjourn – Shirley, seconded by Jim. All in favour.	

## Appendix 1 – Membership Report

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT FOR SAANICH TENNIS CLUB AGM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2016

Membership for 2015 is 172 adult members (including 4 Honourary Members – Mike Meagher, Roy Ralf and Betty Clarke) and 37 junior members.

This is a large increase over last year – 48 more adult members and 12 more junior members.

We had 68 new members with 49 people being referred by a STC member.

This year's membership application requires a waiver to be signed. Also, Tennis BC would like ALL members to go online to set up a profile and obtain their Tennis BC number. Instruction is attached to the membership application form.

Submitted by Judy Huff

Membership Coordinator

## Appendix 2 – President's Report

### President's Report Dec 27, 2015

Thanks everyone for another fun year as a member of Saanich Tennis Club! I've met and played tennis with a lot of great people and I feel lucky to be a part of this vibrant tennis community that we live in! Thanks also for your support of STC. The enthusiasm and appreciation that members have brought to the club over the years is a big reason why I've enjoyed my role this past year as the club's President.

It's been a tremendous year! We were lucky to have a wonderfully dry summer and we have made the most of it by increasing the number of activities at our club. We also welcomed many new people to STC – players of all abilities & ages. Providing this environment of support to both new members and people who are new to tennis is something I'm most proud of our club for. This will help continue to grow our sport, bring our community together and add to the fun at STC.

We started off this year with a membership survey. The 72 responses we received provided much guidance to our Executive team; thank you for this level of support! We were able to initiate a number of new programs and changes based on this feedback and other information will continue to help pave the path for our future.

A number of club volunteers came out at the beginning of our outdoor season to clean the clubhouse and grounds. In addition, Larry Huff helped change the cracked toilet and cleared out the parking lot. This set the stage for Opening Day and New Member's Day, which both had great turnouts. Thanks to Judy and Larry for the BBQ and to everyone who came out to greet and welcome our new members to STC!

This year we increased the number of Change Partner events to 3 and all were well attended (thanks Bill Code!). Davis Cup also produced some great tennis and much fanfare as Spain took the title (thanks Jane and Shirley!). Jim Howie produced yet another well organized Love 50 Tournament as usual! Thanks to the many volunteers who helped run these events and to the great planning by Bill Code for organizing our outdoors schedule. Bill Code and Jim Howie also organized the Club Tournament as they have done for so many years. This year we opted to rename the Club Tournament's mixed doubles trophy in honor of Sylvia Fong who was one of our founding members. Despite having our first rainfall in many weeks, Bill and Jim navigated through the first weekend adeptly and the Club Tournament brought some great fun and tennis in July!

Following the Club Tournament we had a Special General Meeting where a number of important items were brought forward which the Executive team had been working on throughout the first half of the year. Our members voted to: (1) move the annual AGM meeting to January; (2) increase the membership rates; (3) change the Executive structure from 7 Directors to 10 Directors with specific roles; and (4) not initiate major repairs to the tennis courts in 2016. Our Executive have also produced some policy documents to provide guidance to current and future Executives including a new STC Alcohol Consumption policy which will be posted on our website and will be discussed at our next AGM.

It has also been a tremendous year of learning under Coach Neil Coutts as we started up a number of group lessons throughout the summer. We're very lucky to have Neil in our club sharing his knowledge, tools and tricks to bring our games to the next level! Yutaka provided a couple of workshops on how to use the club's ball machine and our junior program continued to run on a weekly basis throughout June, July and August with a fun BBQ on the last day. This year

we had over 35 juniors with the great majority of them participating in the lessons. Thanks to Chad, Mike, Judy and Larry who helped coach the kids, and also to Al and Rose from Courtside Sports who have provided generous support to our junior program over the past couple of years.

With the technical prowess of Chad Brachat and Mike Poplawski, we launched the STC Singles League in May 2015. It really helped add another dimension to our club and to our tennis community and I hope our members continue to enjoy this league in the future! Congratulations to our Singles League winners who were awarded bragging rights and some nice glassware on Closing Day! Closing Day was well attended with several other games, prizes (thanks Centre Court Racquets), a BBQ (thanks Larry and Judy again) and some drop-in tennis.

Petr Havlik and Bill Adair have kept the Singles League going throughout the winter months and Petr is using his technical prowess to continue to build our online experience for the Singles League. The men's STC Winter Singles League will run until March 2016 should anyone like to join in!

Indoor tennis continues to be a popular activity for our club thanks to Janet Martin who has been organizing this again this year at Cedar Hill Recreation on Sunday mornings! There's a lot to organize this each week and we appreciate your work Janet!

Our website and communications have continued to evolve throughout the year thanks to Mike Poplawski's hard work. Mike has recently been working to create an online registration and payment process for those who would prefer to use this. There are a number of other features that he is also exploring to further help our members while reducing the number of volunteer hours required. This is fantastic work that will hopefully make it easier for our club to do more with less in the future!

There are a number of challenges ahead for our club that may also present as opportunities. A couple of drop-in sessions were not well attended throughout the year and so there may be the opportunity to restructure these to find a better fit. The court surface will continue to age, and so a decision to do major repairs versus follow a plan to expand or relocate will need to be pursued in the next year. Bill Bradley has done some investigations with various court repair companies and this work has been very helpful in assessing our current state. While providing STC's general support for the secondary access to BC Hydro, I presented to the Saanich Council meetings and forwarded a letter to our Mayor and Council with concerns about the BC Hydro's redevelopment project's impact on our club and neighbours (i.e. loss of parking, loss of the ability to expand to a 4-court site). The secondary access path was moved so that we could accommodate a 3-court option, but parking would be a major hurdle if we were to attempt to build this. I am currently exploring what relocation options would look like and I would be happy to share details of this work with you.

I would like to thank all our wonderful volunteers including those not mentioned above. This year the Executive members (Jim Howie, Judy Huff, Jane Cunnington, Bill Bradley, Fran Burbidge, Sunny Schlagintweit and Shirley Marsh) were very supportive of my new role and we worked through a lot of material during this busy year. We also received ongoing assistance of Bill Code, Mike Poplawski and Mike Meagher who worked with the Executive team throughout the year.

If you have any questions, comments, ideas or other feedback about STC, please feel free to email me. Thank you once again for being an STC member in 2015 and I hope to see you return in 2016 (our Annual General Meeting will be held on January 17<sup>th</sup>, 11am at Cedar Hill Recreation). Membership renewal information will be updated on our website ([www.saanichtennisclub.org](http://www.saanichtennisclub.org)) including the new online process which will hopefully be available in the near future.

Best wishes for the holiday season!

Rich Wanbon, STC President