

AMERICAN PLATFORM TENNIS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Minutes of the 1973 Annual Meeting

The first Annual Meeting following the incorporation of the APTA was held at the Princeton Club in New York City at 6:30 p.m. on October 29th, 1973. The meeting, really the 40th Annual Meeting, was attended by more than 150 people.

Peter A. Thistle, President, opened the meeting and Robert A. Brown, Secretary, reported that a quorum of the voting members or their representatives was present.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Mr. Thistle welcomed members to the meeting. He noted that paddle tennis was one of the fastest growing sports. He said that there were now from 2500-3000 courts and approximately 100,000 people playing the game. There is increasing interest in paddle tennis in all parts of the country, including the South, and the first signs of interest overseas.

He said that the incorporation of the APTA was one step in coping administratively with the growth in the game. The job of the board of directors, the officers, and the regional vice presidents was to make sure that activities were coordinated for the betterment of the game throughout the country. Mr. Thistle acknowledged, in particular, the help of Jim Carlisle and Bob Brown in connection with the incorporation.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr. Brown reported that there had been a significant increase in correspondence between the APTA and the public. He estimated that the Secretary had received and responded to approximately 1500 inquiries and requests for information over the past year. Interestingly, there was only a modest slowdown in the summer.

He said that there had also been an increase in the internal secretarial work as a result of the increase in number of Board meetings, committee meetings such as the By-Laws Committee, and special projects such as the ball project.

In closing, Mr. Brown thanked "the secretary of the secretary", his wife Ann, for the tremendous help she had given him.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Alan W. Peters, Treasurer, presented a financial report covering the eight-month period from November 1, 1972 to June 30, 1973 in keeping with the change in the APTA fiscal year which now ends on June 30.

Mr. Peters commented that the 1972-73 fiscal year was marked by a substantial expansion of the activities of the Association and its officials in response to the ever greater popularity and growth of the game throughout the country. This growth has demanded an ever increasing amount of time being committed by the Board and its Regional VP's to APTA matters such as playing rules, new types of equipment, court specifications, National and Regional Tournaments and modernization of our organizational structure. This continuing upsurge in activity has resulted during the past eight months in greater demands upon our Association's treasury.

You will note that the June 30, 1973 Financial Report indicates that we incurred an operating loss of \$1,551.15 compared with a profit of \$7,722.37 for the twelve month period ended October 31, 1972. Our sources of revenue have changed little over the past couple of years, our income from dues and court plans staying about level. The disappointments in our operating results can be directly attributed to the substantial upswing in virtually all categories of expense. With the necessity of bringing Regional VP's east for Board Meetings, having representation at all important Regional and National Tournaments, more numerous mailings to our membership body, etc., costs related to operations having naturally increased. By way of example, administrative expenses, including printing, mailing, secretarial, etc., are now running at an annual rate of 50% greater than a year ago.

Nonetheless, the APTA continues to be sound financially with a net worth represented by cash in the bank as of June 30 equivalent to \$17,716.12. However, it is important that we recognize corrective action must be taken to increase our income stream in order to offset the necessarily greater operating expenses and this can only be done by broadening our dues paying membership.

As of our June 30 fiscal date, our membership was comprised of 264 Club Members (voting) and 810 Individual Members (non-voting). Seemingly these figures could be doubled without too much difficulty in view of the expanding popularity of our game.

AMERICAN PLATFORM TENNIS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME STATEMENT

For the Period November 1, 1972 - June 30, 1973

REVENUE:

| | <u>Income</u> | <u>Expense</u> | <u>Net Income</u> | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Dues | \$ 6,983.00 | \$ 114.00 | \$6,869.00 | |
| Plans & Specs | 2,911.60 | -0- | 2,911.60 | |
| Ties | 729.59 | 659.60 | 69.99 | |
| Books | 182.75 | 272.66 | (89.91) | |
| Interest | 391.98 | -0- | 391.98 | |
| Other (Balls & Scarves) | 485.55 | 740.09 | (254.54) | |
| | <u>\$11,684.47</u> | <u>\$1,786.35</u> | | \$ 9,898.12 |

OPERATING EXPENSE:

| | | |
|---|---------------|--------------------|
| Printing & Mailing (a) | \$4,378.39 | |
| Administrative, Secretarial, etc. (b) | 2,737.61 | |
| Meetings (i.e. Annual, Exec. Comm., Etc.) (c) | 2,790.30 | |
| Other | <u>459.80</u> | |
| Total | | <u>\$10,366.10</u> |
| NET OPERATING INCOME (LOSS) | | <u>(\$467.98)</u> |

TOURNAMENTS:

| | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| National Boys | \$ (140.25) | |
| National Senior & Veterans (Men's) | (433.14) | |
| National Men's | 598.69 | |
| National Men's - 45's | (173.33) | |
| National Mixed | 62.78 | |
| National Senior Women's | 164.36 | |
| National Women's | <u>(1,162.28)</u> | |
| Total | | <u>\$(1,083.17)</u> |
| NET INCOME (LOSS) - 8 MOS. | | <u>\$(1,551.15)</u> |

NOTES TO INCOME STATEMENT:

a) Printing & Mailing

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| S-J-S Mimeograph Co. | \$3,552.10 |
| Westmail Press | 71.34 |
| Cowles | 708.25 |
| Other | 46.70 |
| Total | <u>\$4,378.39</u> |

b) Administrative, Secretarial, Phone, etc.

| | |
|-------------|-------------------|
| Telephone | \$ 272.57 |
| Secretarial | 1,059.84 |
| Other | 1,405.20 |
| Total | <u>\$2,737.61</u> |

NOTES TO INCOME STATEMENT: (cont.)c) Meetings (i.e. Annual, Board & Exec. Comm., etc.)

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Annual meeting (Princeton Club) | \$1,472.53 |
| Travel-Board members & Reg. VPs | 740.08 |
| Other | <u>577.69</u> |
| Total | \$2,790.30 |

AMERICAN PLATFORM TENNIS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

BALANCE SHEET
As of June 30, 1973

| <u>ASSETS</u> | <u>10/31/72</u> | <u>6/30/73</u> |
|--------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Checking Account | \$ 3,936.32 | \$ 2,993.19 |
| Savings Account | <u>15,330.95</u> | <u>14,722.93</u> |
| Total | \$19,267.27 | \$17,716.12 |
| <u>LIABILITIES</u> | <u>- 0 -</u> | <u>- 0 -</u> |
| <u>NET WORTH</u> | \$19,267.27 | \$17,716.12 |

CASH RECONCILIATION:

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Nov. 1, 1972 Beginning Cash Balance | Checking Account | \$ 3,936.32 |
| | Savings Account | <u>15,330.95</u> |
| | | \$19,267.27 |
| <u>Add:</u> Net Income (Loss) 8 mos. | | <u>(1,551.15)</u> |
| | | \$17,716.12 |
| June 30, 1973 Ending Cash Balance: | Bankers Trust Co. | \$ 2,993.19 |
| | Union Dime Savings | <u>14,722.93</u> |
| | | \$17,716.12 |

TOURNAMENT ACTIVITIES

Richard C. Farr, Tournament Chairman, knowing he would be unable to attend had taped his report. When the tape equipment would not function properly, Paul C. Molloy summarized the highlights of the report as follows:

Through Dick's efforts over the past two years, the APTA attempted to improve the administrative aspects of tournament play, the scheduling of dates and publication of results. We tried to act as a clearing house for information about tournaments and act as consultants to the clubs and tournament chairman. Dick or his representative participated in the seeding and draws used for ranking purposes and appeared at all the tournaments. We attempted to improve the overall quality of tournament administration and provide a similar format for tournaments.

Mr. Molloy continued:

One of the most important developments during Dick's two years have been the development of the national ranking system. The procedure used this year was a well thought out point system which we'd be happy to explain to any interested parties. The APTA expects to continue to refine the system and we welcome the comments of any players who will offer them.

Except for a few, I won't go into a lot of tournament results because they have all been published in our APTA Newsletter. The men's Nationals was the perfect finale to a fine season. It was a weekend full of paddle, hospitality, great parties and capped by an exciting championship match. I was privileged to call a five set final between Mangan and Kingsbury and Jennings and Steele, which would have gone either way.

Mr. Malloy then introduced the national champions who were present. John Mangan and Bob Kingsbury, who successfully defended the men's championship; Mike North who won the mixed doubles with Sis O'Connell; Gloria Dillenbeck who won the women's with B.J. DeBree; Chuck Baird and Ned Swanberg, who won the Senior Men's, and Brad Drowne who won the newly inaugurated Men's 45 with Don Miller.

Mrs. Charles C. Stanton then reported on women's tournaments. She commented that paddle has come a long way for the women. Back in the early 1960's we had only our Thursday get-togethers to practice for the Nationals. Bobbie Koegel and Charlotte Lee were the impetus and the backbone of women's paddle then. In 1968, Dick Hornigold, then paddle chairman at the Stanwich Club, hosted the first women's Invitational which Charlotte Lee and I won. Then a rash of women's tournaments followed with the final result that in the 1973-1974 season, there are now 15 tournaments to play in before the Nationals.

Paddle is branching out. Last year we added Kalamazoo to the roster, Cleveland the year before, Detroit and Chicago for the first time this year, and locally, we had the first Long Island Invitational for women last year and the Charlotte Lee Invitational in New Jersey.

Mrs. Stanton concluded by thanking the individual tournament chairmen for producing "well run tournaments which were so popular that they were filled up two days after the invitations were out."

HONOR AWARDS

A high point of the evening was the presentation of the honor award by G. Estabrook Kindred, the Chairman of the Honor Award Committee. His report follows:

On February 18, 1965 the Executive Committee of the APTA met at the Princeton Club and at that meeting decided to inaugurate the APTA Honor Award. In the past eight years the award has been presented to 27 individuals who have made significant contributions to the game of Platform Tennis. Some of these people have contributed technically, some were founders and developers of the game. Some have been champion players and others have been doers. All of these people have done most for Platform Tennis and have helped to make the game what it is today. It is fitting that they be so singled out. I'd like to take a moment to introduce to you past award winners who are here tonight:

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Class of '65... | Kenneth Ward, Richard K. Hebard |
| Class of '66... | Charlotte Lee, Donald K. Evans, James Carlisle |
| Class of '67... | Walter Close |
| Class of '69... | George Harrison, William Pardoe |

The Honor Award Committee consisting of Messrs. Thistle, Hebard, Harrison, Sullivan and Kindred have met to consider potential recipients for the Honor Award this year and now present to the Association with great pleasure, a new award candidate.

GORDON GRAY

This honor award is, in a way, unique. Only once in 27 previous occasions has the APTA Honor Award been given to a man or woman who is still in the prime of his or her game; has been just recently a champion or still a highly ranked player. It has most often been given to people who have made their mark, rarely to those still making it. This is not policy but it seems to have worked out this way. The Committee feels that this player has such a fine record and such superb ability on the paddle court that this particular recognition of his talents is deserved.

Besides prowess and winning, this candidate has also brought to the game, and the countless hours he has played it, a kind of attitude which is very evident and which has set a standard not often duplicated.

The attitude has been there since youth, but the skill is only recently discovered. In 1965, eight short years ago, this candidate had barely heard of platform tennis and had "fussed" around with it only a little. He has always been a fine tennis player but when the seasons changed, tennis stopped. Tennis friends talked about paddle and the great game it was and our candidate gave it a serious try -- with another tennis player who was also in the game for the first time. To them, this was not just a enjoyable weekend game kind of a try, but the whole way -- invitational tournaments and national tournaments to start. The first couple of outings, nothing to write home about: But the fun he had playing this game, the challenge and love of competition, the desire to be good, to be the best -- to win, showed through. Right from the start, analyzing the loss or the win. Watching others who could be learned from, skull sessions, practice and more practice, a game plan, determination and adjusting the game to his opponents. The natural talent helped but it was the hard work coupled with the analytical approach that produced and it did.

That same season, the winter of 1966, when this candidate first took up paddle, he won the APTA National mixed doubles. A month later, he was a finalist in his first national men's doubles. Again, unseeded, unknown and disposing of 3 seeds to get to the finals.

The next year, 1967, he won the National Mixed Doubles a second time and in 1968 won it for the third time. The Platform Tennis mixed Doubles a hat trick only duplicated twice before and not since 1952 and before that 1939. And he did it in the first three years he played the game.

Overlapping these wins in mixed doubles was the beginning of a reign in men's doubles as well. To reiterate, a finalist in 1966, the first year, and a finalist again two years later in 1968. Then he and his partner, by now a seasoned team with the precise melding of abilities, communication and concentration which are prerequisites to winning, took the National Men's Doubles three times in a row, in 1969, 1970 and 1971. Again, the 3 straight hat trick. A feat done only once before in men's doubles in the history of the game. They were finalists again in 1972. So, from 1966-1972, seven years, this team got to the final round 6 times. A certain kind of dominance.

On a National Championship point count basis, only 2 men in the game, Dick Hebard and Charles O'Hearn have more points than this candidate. So, he's in good company.

This is, above all, a thinking player and one who thrived on paddle. Paddle was not something that he had to do but it was done for the pure love of the game. Once he got started he quickly became an innovator of the attacking game and he attacked with consistency and won by attacking. If you've played against him you know how devastating that attack can be. He hit balls on the rise and always had his opponents under pressure. But he hit flat shots which left little margin for error in a game where errors are costly. He got so he could hit the ball as hard as he wanted to and not make the error. He has terrific hand-eye coordination and quickness in reacting, particularly at the net where the game is played at least half the time. His volleys are always offensive, always have something on them, always hit out in front of him and not very often was the fortress he presented penetrated.

When he was out there he was hard and severe and dedicated. He didn't fool around. He and the two partners with whom he compiled this record, particularly the men's doubles partner, really introduced a whole new level of Platform Tennis. They changed the game; and while this will happen again it happened with him because of the way he played. But through all of this, he was eminently fair and an exemplary sportsman in a game where sportsmanship abound. Then, too, he had a great sense of proportion -- winning was important but so were the game's other ingredients -- fun and loyalty to partner. He plays the game the way he lives his life -- thoroughly and with great enjoyment. He has won often and he does it with a smile. And when he loses and he's lost too, he loses with a smile. Tonight he's won the APTA's highest award with a very big smile on our part and we hope on his, Gordon Gray.

REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Walter M. Frese presented the report of the Nominating Committee. The following people were nominated to be directors:

Robert A. Brown
 E. L. Bermingham
 Carrington Clark, Jr.
 Richard C. Farr
 William F. Hoffmann
 Richard M. Hornigold
 G. Estabrook Kindred
 Donald A. Macrae
 Paul C. Molloy
 Cecil J. North, Jr.
 Alan W. Peters
 Mrs. Charles C. Stanton
 Peter A. Thistle

The nominations were duly seconded and unanimously elected.

ORGANIZATION OF THE APTA

Mr. Thistle noted that in accordance with the new by-laws, the directors would meet following the Annual Meeting to elect officers. He said that it was expected that the following officers would be elected:

Robert A. Brown
 President

Cecil J. North, Jr.
 Secretary

Alan W. Peters
 V.P. & Treasurer

G. Estabrook Kindred
 V.P. - Honor Awards
 V.P. - Membership

Donald A. Macrae
 V.P. - Equipment

William A. Ballard
 V.P. - Public Relations

William F. Hoffmann
 V.P. - National Tournament Director

Mrs. W. Bradford Briggs
 V.P. - Women's Tournaments

Mrs. Thornton Gerrish
 V.P. - Women's Tournaments

Mrs. Thomas J. Mangan
 V.P. - Women's Tournaments

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

Northern New England
 William L. Cartier

W. Pennsylvania/W.Va.
 Neil Y. Van Horn

Connecticut
 Richard C. Farr

Mid-Atlantic & South
 Edward M. Prince

Long Island
Joseph B. Hartmeyer

Western New York
Michael Kenefick

New Jersey/E. Penn.
Ambrose H. Hardwick, Jr.

Michigan
George G. Black

Ohio, Ind., Kentucky
Willis M. McFarlane

Ill., Wisc. & West
Charles C. Bowen

In concluding remarks, Bob Brown gave special thanks to Peter Thistle, retiring President. He noted the major accomplishments recorded during Pete's presidency -- the incorporation of the APTA and revision of the by-laws, establishment of National Rankings, the new "Individual" membership system, and the formalization of the policy on approval of platform tennis court builders. "When I reflect on the characteristics that Pete brought to his administration, the one which stands out is his desire to broaden geographically the representation in the administration of the game. The APTA is now well organized regionally, with 11 regions, each having a regional vice president; and this desire for broader representation is also reflected in the makeup of the new Board which included four Directors from areas other than the New York metropolitan area. In summary, I feel comfortable in succeeding Pete in view of our sound organization and good people. We are all grateful to Pete Thistle for a job well done."

With regard to the challenges facing the APTA, Mr. Brown commented that:

- (1) The growth of paddle tennis has far-reaching implications from the standpoint of administration, particularly in terms of tournaments, court construction, management, membership.
- (2) There are now courts in six foreign countries that we know of -- Canada, Japan, Germany, Poland, Italy and Puerto Rico. Thus, it is possible to foresee the need for an International Platform Tennis Association.
- (3) Court construction will continue to require careful attention, the APTA approved builders list now includes builders of three different court deck materials -- douglas fir, plywood, and aluminum. Approval for other surfaces will undoubtedly be sought, such as steel, asphalt, concrete.
- (4) The ball-test project, headed by Amby Hardwick, was reviewed, and the approval of balls supplied by four different companies was announced.
- (5) A committee has been established to review the footfault rule and consider whether to recommend a change in the rule. The committee will complete its study during November and submit its recommendations to the APTA Board at its meeting of December 3, 1973. A film illustrating various types of serves was shown.

* * * * *

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.