

Board of Directors Meeting in St. Louis, Missouri at the Ramada Inn, May 21, 1975 met from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM again at 6:30 PM to 11:00 PM. On May 22, the Board met from 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM, 1:30 PM to 5:00 PM. Met again with the new Board on May 25, at 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM.

The Board of Directors was called to order by the President, DeWitt Shy.

The first order of business was on the State and Regional Convention which was held in St. Louis in October of 1974 and it was agreed to host another State and Regional Convention in New Orleans on September 27th and 28th, ¹⁹⁷⁵ how much we pay for each delegate from the International Racquetball Association will depend upon the financial situation at that time.

The next item on the agenda was the United States Court Club Association and a motion was made by Ken Porco and second by Peggy Steding for the IRA to support the USCCA and become a member for ~~1974-75~~ and pay the dues for one year of \$500. The motion passed with Smith Schippers opposing.

The next item was the National Sporting Goods Show which will be held last of January in Chicago. The motion was made by Ken Porco and second by Charlie Brumfield that the Executive Director attend the National Sporting Goods Show and provide information to the Exhibitors. They also voted not to set up a booth as has been done in the past two years. ~~XXXXXX XXXXXXXXXX~~ The travel expense and expenses while at the convention will be paid by the IRA.

Motion was made by Ken Porco and seconded by Hal Price that we work with the College Union in developing ^{an} intercollegiate program that would consist of local competition, state Competition, regional competition and end up in a National Championship competition for the year 1975-76. This would be financed through sponsors and not by the IRA.

Адрес: Адрес: 100000, Москва, ул. Мясницкая, д. 10, стр. 1

A Manufacturing Committee was set up by the President, DeWitt Shy and the Chairman will be Bill Dunn and he may choose two to three members to serve with him. All balls, racquets or any other materials that is sent to the IRA, will be sent to Bill Dunn and his committee for testing and approval of the IRA. This committee was also instructed to come up with basic guidelines and qualifications for all equipment that the IRA will approve.

Next item of business was Guidelines for classification of players. It was felt by the Board that we must have some standard set up to rank novice, C,B,A and etc. The motion was made by Smith Schippers and second by Dr. Sellars that we accept Dr. Bud Muehleisen's report as guidelines for classification of players in the various regions and it will be published in the magazine as the guidelines. This will be published twice a year in the magazine.

The next item of business was Reorganization of the Regional areas. A motion was made by Ken Porco and second by Dr. Sellars that Kentucky be moved to region six and Pennsylvania be moved to region seven. Motion carried.

We had a report from Tony Furman and Mike Mace. They are the promotion company that have helped us with our National Promotion. They reported to us what they had done up to now and some of the ideas they have for the future of racquetball and related areas. The report was accepted and appreciated.

We discussed the magazine and its cost and realized that the magazine costs about one dollar an issue, the Board felt that the IRA annual dues of \$3 for one year and seven dollars for three years was too low. The motion was made by Ivan Bruner and second by Bud Muehleisen that we raise the IRA annual dues to \$6 for one year and \$10 for two years. From the \$6, \$1.50 will go directly back to the State organization to help develop state programs and \$2.00 out of the \$10 will go back to the State organization. The motion carried unanimously and the increase will be effective September 1, 1975.

The Executive Director related to the Board of Directors that there had been some concern from the Manufacturing Companies regarding Conflict of Interest of people on the Board. It was discussed at great length and a motion was made by DeWitt Shy and second by Bill Dunn that there would be nobody serving on the Board that would have a Conflict of Interest. The vote was 5 and 5. The motion was made by John Chambers and second by ~~Reggie XXXXXXX~~ Bud Muehleisen that this Conflict of Interest be tabled until the formation of the new Board who would vote on it after the membership meeting on Sunday.

A motion was made by Charlie Brumfield and second by Ivan Bruner that the President and the Executive Director continue to communicate and work with all manufacturing people on negotiations to help bring in revenue for the IRA so that we can continue our programs that we have had in the past. Motion was carried.

We had a report from the Canadian Racquetball Association President, Ivan Velan, he gave a very comprehensive report of what the Canadian Racquetball Association is doing. It was very impressive. They have done a tremendous job with their organization and are starting to get help in a lot of areas from their national government. They are also planning on having two of the top American racquetball players spending a month in Canada going across Canada putting on Clinics, for top people in racquetball. They have asked the IRA to help them financially with a grant of \$2,000. This grant has been put in the budget and if the budget is approved, it will be granted.

A report was made to the Board of Directors by Dr. Bud Muehleisen as far as rule changes are concerned and his recommendation which was accepted was that he and Charlie Brumfield would send in a list of rule change proposals and in turn we will publish this in the magazine and would want the membership to express their feelings as well as to try to have a tournament or two in their locations with these rules. When we get the feed-back we will make another report to the membership and they will be able to vote on whether they want the rule changes or not.

page three--

Motion was made that the T-shirt rule be stricken as it now exists and the rule be revised using the same criteria for color on the uniform. Light and Bright. In addition it was also moved that the players must play with T-shirts with sleeves in it and they can have anything on the shirt except it must not be obscene. This motion was made by Charlie Brumfield and second by Bill Sellars. The motion did not carry. It was defeated by a vote of 8 to two.

The pro-circuit was discussed at great length, the advantages and the disadvantages of the pro-circuit and a motion was made by Ken Porco and second by Smith Schippers that we have a pro-circuit if it can financially sustain itself in 1975-76. The motion passed. DeWitt shy appointed a committee of the Executive Director, ~~Ken Porco and Mr. Tanner~~ to work on formation of the pro-circuit. A motion was made by Charlie Brumfield and second by Ivan Bruner that the pro-circuit be a separate corporation and would be called the IRA Pro Tour Corporation which would be a profit association separate completely from the IRA which is a non-profit association. This was passed unanimously by the Board. A motion was made by Smith Schippers that the 1976 tournament will be followed as last year where we will qualify 64 berths for the open division. Bill Dunn second the motion. Dr. Sellars and Charlie Brumfield voted against it and eight voted for it. The tournament for the IRA for 1976 will be the same as it was in 1974. The exact number of qualifiers will be decided upon for each region.

The reorganization for IRA was discussed and it was brought up that we need to have more committees that make reports to the Board of Directors at the time of their annual meeting. These committees will be set up by the Executive Director and the President and they will make their reports to the Board of Directors.

National Paddleball Association: A letter was presented in regard to that Association working with the IRA as far as publication was concerned. The Board agreed that we would look further into the matter and if we can be of some help and it would be of an advantage both to the National Paddleball Association as well as to the IRA, we will work together.

The \$2,000 note that SML owes the IRA which was given SML by Mr. Kendler as a \$2,000 note help them set up a clothing business, the Board accepted the terms that SML presented for paying the note off and if they do not pay the note off as of these terms we will have to proceed with legal action to make the collection.

A motion was made by Bud Muehleisen and second by Bill Dunn that the International Womens Singles Championships for 1976 be divided into two classes. One class would be 34 and below and the other class would be 34 and above. If in the regional tournaments, if any class has eight or more you could also have this division. This passed unanimously with the Board.

~~XX~~ Ivan Bruner ^{made a motion} and Hal Price second that our financial report be accepted with the realization that it depends alot on what our royalties do as to how the report would be.

Smith Schippers moved and ~~Leonard Marks~~ ^{Ivan Bruner} second that the budget be accepted but that in the budget should be put \$10,000 per year to help find an Assistant Director to work with the Director and his primary charge would be to increase memberships and work with State programs and any other area that would be beneficial to the Association. This passed unanimously.

The Board of Directors met for two and a half hours with Don Strong from Seamco discussing what we can do as far as the ball situation is concerned and also why there has been such a large drop in royalty from \$12,000 to \$4,000. The meeting was very educational and very informative.

After the Board of Directors, on Sunday following the membership meeting, a slate of officers were presented to the Board which was passed with Dr. Price moving that they be accepted with Grapes second the motion and it was unanimous that the President would be DeWitt Shy, Vice President, ~~Bill~~ ^{Wm} Tanner, Secretary-Treasurer will be Smith Schippers, National Commissioner, Ivan Bruner, National Rules Chairman will be Charlie Brumfield.

A motion was ^{on the floor} made by Bill Dunn that we do not elect anyone to the Board of Directors who would have a conflict of interest and that the people on the board that do have a conflict of interest will rotate off as their term expires. Motion was second by Peggy Steding and it passed unanimously. DeWitt Shy is setting up a committee to spell out exactly what we mean by conflict of interest and this will be reported to the membership.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ A motion was made by Leonard Marks and second by Wm. B. Tanner that we change our fiscal year from December 31 to March 31. This motion passed unanimously and was done because this will give us a better financial picture when we have our annual board of directors meeting in April or May.

Smith Schippers wanted the IRA books audited up to March 31 so we would have a financial picture for the fiscal year 1974-75. It was seconded by Ivan Bruner and passed unanimously by the Board. Smith Schippers moved that we get a resolution that would protect the Board and its officers from any law suit that we might run into which could involve an accident during a National Tournament or anything else of this nature. The following was passed unanimously and put into our constitution. A motion was made by Charlie Brumfield and second by Wm. B. Tanner that we have a committee that would go through our constitution and make recommendations changes to the Board of Director. Smith Schippers was appointed as the Chairman and will make this report to the Board at their next meeting. This passed unanimously.

As the Executive Director I would like to say that I have set on three Board of Directors Meetings with the IRA and I have never set on one that had more in-put, more integrity, or more enthusiasm than the Board of 1975 and the future Board of 1976.

Nominating Committee: Ken Por^Cto, Chairman --made a report from his committee and presented names to the Board of Directors. ~~SAFTER A LONG~~ After a discussion of different individuals to come on the Board, advantages and disadvantages, locations and etc., a motion was made by Dr. Hal Price and second by Dr. Bud Muehleisen that the Board of directors recommend to the membership as their ~~nominating~~ new Board of Directors, Gene Grapes, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Leonard Marks, St. Louis, ⁷³⁰Illinois; and Wm. B. Tanner from Memphis, Tenn. The motion was unanimous with the Board and this was to be presented to the membership as our nominees from the Board of Directors on Sunday.

Board of Directors Meeting--

Canadian Resolution--Myron said if the budget was approved, it would be taken care of.
Rules report by Bud Muehleisen:

Nothing in the constitution states how the rules should be changed. Bud stated that he would like to mail out a proposal to the Board and have each member respond by mail to the new rules chairman. Delay of game is a serious problem both to spectator as well as player and referee. This is very unsportsmanlike and time consuming. If a player loses a shoe, racquet or other equipment before an object enters the court, or any other outside interference occurs, play shall continue unless at the discretion of the referee.

(this is on sheet)

A Committee to set some standards. Bill Dunn will be chairman of the manufacturing committee.

Reorganization--main thing that we do have other committees that report to us such as the Canadian and the Anthony Furman deal that will come in and make reports to our Board. Certain areas could be taken care of by members of the Board and they report back.

Motion was made that the T-shirt rule be stricken as it now exists and the T-shirt rule be remodeled using the same criteria for color on the uniform, light and bright, in addition he also moved that the players must play with T-shirts over sleeves for safety purposes so that the perspiration that comes from the handball player does not get on the court and apart from that the T-shirt should remain open subject only to obscenity. Motion was made by Bud Muehleisen and seconded--- two voted for it, Charlie Brumfield and Bill Sellars and the rest opposed. Motion did not carry.

The Board shall meet in special session to elect officers to succeed those officers whose terms are expiring and any other business that may come before the meeting.

Motion carried. Two thirds vote and seconded--motion carried.

Motion was made that we have a Pro Circuit that is self sustaining in 1975-76.

motion seconded.

A motion was made that a corporation be formed called the IRA Pro Tour Corporation and the Pro Tour be self sustaining in 1975-76. Second by Ivan. (need to be on approved list, Myron will check this out with IRS)

A motion was made that for the 1976 tournament that we would follow last years procedures of qualifying for 64 berths and leaving eight open. This is for the Open division only. Bill Dunn seconded the motion--Sellars and Charlie voted against it and seven for it.

22 16
Conflict of Interest: Motion was made to accomodate the manufacturers that are complainin
of conflict of interest which I personally think is well taken, --should be have people
who have conflict of interest serve on the Board?--The motion is we should not have people
who have a obvious conflict of interest as defined to serve as members of the Board in
the future. (DeWitt Shy made the motion --second was made.) 5 for it and 5 opposed it.

24
Motion was made that the question be tabled until the formation of the new Board. Second.
Motion carried. Motion was made that the President and Executive Director who can best
communicate between the major ball manufactureres, continue negotiations that would lead
to a revenue in excess of \$80,000 a year for the IRA, not to make any commitments until
we have had a phone conversation with the entire new Board and we have resolved the proble
of conflict of interest. Motion second.

13 28
Canada President: Ivan Velan--Their government supplies money but not for newsletters.
& no funds for administration purposes. They do provide money for clinics and coaches.
A request was submitted to the IRA for help and this covered four areas. Two regional
tournaments held this year and the National Tournament which the IRA has helped with
in the past, a national open tournament which would annually be the Klondike tournament
and also a closed tournament for Canadians only. The last area was general administration
funded from which is ~~tax~~ memberships only. Financial help would be appreciated in the amount of
\$2,000.00.

Membership--con't..

15 15
Motion was made that the IRA raise the standard one year membership to \$6 with a two
year membership for \$10. On the one year level a dollar fifty would go back to the
state from which the membership was solicited and in the two year package, two dollars
would go back to the state. Motion second.--one opposed, motion carried. Motion was
also made that the membership increase would be effective September 1, 1975. Secnd. Carried.
motion carried. Motion was made that the Executive Director attend the National
Sporting goods show and provide information to the exhibitors. motion second. Carried.
Motion was made by DeWitt Shy that if any funding was necessary, it would be taken care
of by the Board. Second. Carried.

14
U.S.C.C.A.--Motion was made that the IRA support the USCCA so we can be a member of their
board. Motion second by Peggy Steding. \$500 in 1975. This is for a one year period only.

Smitty opposed. Motion carried.

10
Guidelines for classification of players; Novice, C-B-A is all really needed. This
is for local tournaments only. Motion was made that Bud Muehleisen's report be accepted
as Guidelines for classification of players in their various regions and it be published
in the magazine as guidelines. Motion carried. (make a copy of guidelines and send them
back to Dr Bud)--Should be published twice a year or each issue. Revised every two or four
months.

Dr. Sellars, Dr. Bud and myself are going off at this time and the Board of Directors nominating committee composed of myself, Charlie, Smitty, Ivan & Peggy. A letter was written to each asking for their nominations for the additions for the Board. There are some duplications. I would like to read all the names. Barry Cox, Gene Grapes, (3) Tom McKie, Leigh Jones, Bill Tanner, Joe Zelson, Ike Gumer, Robert Troyer, Dan Hilicher.

It was suggested they be categorized by age and location as well as how active in the sport. Board members remaining on the Board are: Brumfield, Shy, Steding, Price, Chambers Schippers, Dunn, Ike Bruner. The President asked for more nominations. Leonard Marks, Tanner and Grapes.

Move Kentucky to region six and Pennsylvania to region seven. Motion was made and second motion carried. *by Price - Price*

Insurance: DeWitt Shy has report.

Tony Furman and Mike Mace: Office in NY and LA. Strickly sports and travel. Came to IRA from Sportcraft. Since January, 1975 have been working with Myron and Ken. Folder will outline all subjects. Solicitation of sponsorship is major project. \$1700 in gifts at this International tournament. Would like input from all present as to persons you know who might be interested. Hollywood Celebrity tournament and Pro Football Tournament are in the making for 1975. Midas is one prospect (Muffler Co.) A College Program is another prospect.

Ball: Moving to LaGrange, Georgia.

Ball: (Vittert) --\$1 a dozen for first 100,000. 50¢ after that.

1975

Membership Meeting--Sunday, May 25th in the Ballroom of the Ramada Inn, St. Louis, Mo.

There were 185 present for a 8:30 AM breakfast and following the breakfast the meeting was called to order by our President, DeWitt Shy at 9:30 AM.

The first order of business was to award the Man Of The Year, which went to a woman this year, so it was the Woman of the Year, Marilyn Rankin from Edmonton, Canada. Marilyn is very very active in the Canadian Racquetball Association both as their secretary and helping set up and run their major tournaments.

The Woman Athlete of the Year went to Jan Pasternak. Jan has been the National Champion twice and runner up twice.

Man Athlete of the Year went to the 1974 International Singles Champion, Bill Schmidtke. It was a great pleasure for DeWitt Shy to give International Hall of Fame awards to ~~two~~ new members. For the Athlete, Bill Schmidtke received the award and of course Bill has been an outstanding racquetball player for many many years. In fact he got second in the first tournament ever held. It was called paddleball-racquetball in 1968. Bill was the 1971 and 1974 International Champion and placed in both 1972 and 1973. [The gentleman that was inducted into the Hall of Fame for his contribution to the sport of racquetball was Larry Lederman. Larry gave a little history of how he got involved in racquetball, how racquetball became a sport within itself and it was through his direction and leadership that the International Racquetball Association was formed. Larry set on the Board for many many years and was our National Commissioner for many years. He has been a great asset to racquetball and is still a great asset to racquetball.

Myron Roderick, the Executive Director, presented awards to the members going off the Board, to Dr. Bud Muehleisen from San Diego, California, Ken Porco from Louisville, Kentucky and Dr. Bill Sellars from Dallas, Texas. These three men served the International Racquetball Association with great honor and had a great in-put into our Association. They thanked the membership and the Association for allowing them to serve in this capacity and pledged to the Association that they would continue to work as hard as ever to help the sport of racquetball.

Myron Roderick, the Executive Director, made a short report concerning the International Racquetball Association. He gave a brief summary of the 26 hours of the Board of Directors meeting and you can read about what was passed in the minutes of the meeting which are in this magazine. He stated that the activity from the International Racquetball Office has increased each month and a tremendous enthusiasm is going on throughout the world as far as racquetball is concerned. He also stated that the 1974 receipts and the 1974 expenditures will be in the magazine for the membership to read. Mr. Roderick also informed the membership their organization had increased from forty seven hundred to sixty eight hundred and felt that it would continue to increase as time went on. The Board of Directors in their meeting stressed

very strongly that they wanted the International Racquetball Association to work very hard in this area for the coming year.

Mr. Roderick reported that the Pro-tour would be taken out of the International Racquetball Association and be formed as a new profit corporation called the International Racquetball Pro Corporation and that it would have its own officers and operate within its own Corporation. The Pro-circuit would have to financially stand on its own merits. He reported that this was the greatest year that ever happened in International Racquetball because of our state organizations that are doing such a tremendous job in providing tournaments, information and leadership in the sport of racquetball.

A report was given by Dr. Bud Muehleisen on the rules. Dr. Bud explained that there were no rules passed as far as the Board of Directors or the the membership are concerned. His committee was going to make several proposals which will be put in the magazine and the membership could try these out for the next six months and write back to the Board of Directors through the International Office, their feelings concerning the proposals or any new proposals that they felt they should have to improve the sport of racquetball. Once these have been received through the International Office, a rules proposal will be sent to the membership for a vote. There were a lot of questions from the floor concerning rules which were answered by Dr. Bud Muehleisen. Dr. Bud goes off the Board this year and he will be replaced by Charlie Brumfield as our new National Rules Chairman so if anyone has any questions or wants interpretations of the rules be sure and send them to Charlie Brumfield, 7966 Convoy Court, San Diego, California 92111.

Leonard Marks thanked everyone who had worked so hard in the tournament in order to put on such a large successful tournament as such. St. Louis always does a fantastic job and this year was no exception.

DeWitt Shy thanked Leonard Marks for his time and effort that he had put into the tournament. He was not only the tournament director but the floor manager as well, which is in itself a large job.

I would like to point out that Ivan Bruner is the new National Commissioner who takes the place of Ken Porco who went off the Board and anyone who is interested in holding one of the IRA Regionals or IRA Invitationals for 1975-76 should get in touch with him at 2602 Arbor Dr., Madison, Wis. 53711. In bidding for one of the tournaments a complete evaluation of the facility where the meet is to be held should be prepared along with full information on Motels, Transportation and other accommodations. We need these bids as soon as possible.

Peggy Steding reported on the vote of the Board of Directors to split the Womens Singles in International competition into two divisions but didn't know which age groups to divide them in. Either 29 and under or 34 and under. She put the vote to the women and they voted to have the age group 34 and under and 34 and over. In the International Tournament next year there will be two womens divisions, one 34 and under and one 34 and over.

The next thing on the agenda was the election of the Board of Directors. This year we had three gentlemen going off the Board. Dr. Bud Muehleisen, Ken Porco and Dr. Bill Sellars. The rules for the annual election called for a nominating committee of five directors selected by the President to research the prospects and submit a candidate for each open position. The membership then may make any nominations from the floor if they choose and then each member may vote for three candidates. To win the election, the nominee must have the majority of the votes cast. If they do not receive the majority, the two highest ranking candidates are voted on again until one has the majority. The three nominees submitted by the committee were William B. Tanner from Memphis, Tenn.; Gene Grapes from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Leonard Marks from St. Louis, Missouri. Two gentlemen were nominated from the floor, Richard Walker from Dallas, Texas and Robert Troyer from Lake Forest, Illinois. The results of the election were that the three new Board of Directors will be William B. Tanner, Gene Grapes and Leonard Marks. All three received a large majority of the votes.

In closing, President DeWitt Shy thanked everyone for being very active in the International Racquetball Association and wanted to wish them the very best of luck for the coming year.



INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

P. O. Box 12490 • Memphis, Tennessee 38112 • (901) 274-7325

TOM McKIE
Executive Director
Res. Ph. (901) 767-8906

MINUTES OF THE I.R.A. BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

NOVEMBER 16, 1975, HAYWARD, CALIFORNIA

The meeting was called to order by President DeWitt Shy at 8:45 a.m.

Present: Charles Brumfield, Ivan Bruner, John Chambers, Bill Dunn, Gene Grapes, Hal Price, DeWitt Shy and Tom McKie

The Board unanimously approved the hiring of Tom McKie as Executive Director replacing Myron Roderick who had resigned effective October 1, 1975. McKie was instructed to draw up a contract for two years at the same salary and benefits as the previous Director had. Such contract could be terminated by either party by giving sixty (60) days notice.

The Board was concerned about the channels of communication between it and the Executive Director and directed that he submit a monthly report to them outlining the financial condition of the association and keeping them abreast of what was happening.

A motion was made by Charlie Brumfield and seconded by Ivan Bruner to have the temporary office in Memphis until the full meeting of the Board in the Spring at which time the site will be selected.

A resolution was moved by Brumfield and seconded by Price to allow McKie to use his discretion as to his play in I.R.A. tournaments. Concern was that the Executive Director should handle the duties of the I.R.A. at the tournaments first and that playing was secondary. The motion carried with Brumfield opposed.

The next discussion centered on the new Vittert ball. While everyone agreed much progress had been made, discussion varied as to how much more was needed. It was decided to poll the remaining players in the tournament and record their comments. These were then to be sent to Vittert. Also, all new samples should be passed along to Bill Dunn for his committee's evaluation.

McKie was directed to prepare copies of all royalty contracts and distribute them to the individual board members.

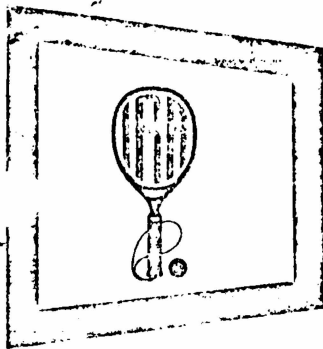
Discussion then centered on the present T-shirt rule. Brumfield moved and was seconded by Bruner that the portion of the present rule pertaining to allowing only a players personal name on the shirts back be suspended until each board member could review the situation, send written recommendations to the rules committee, and after that the Board would act on the rule. Motion carried with Shy and Chambers opposed.

The Board directed McKie to check on the possible sale of additional copies of our magazine and made suggestions as to material to be included.

A suggestion was made by John Chambers to hold the Spring Board Meeting at a different time than the championships to avoid the distractions encumbered at that time. No action was taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Thomas D. McKie
Executive Director



INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 31481, Suite 1012 • Dallas, Texas 75231 • 214-690-0244

TOM McKIE
Executive Director
Res. Ph. 214-495-6757

MINUTES OF THE IRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Chattanooga, Tennessee

May 27, 1976

The meeting was called together by President, DeWitt Shy at 8:00 a.m.

Financial Report - The report was presented by Tom McKie in two parts -- 1975 and the first quarter of 1976. Hereafter the fiscal year will be from April 1 through March 31. Basically the Association showed a loss of \$33,894.07 of which a loss of \$40,261.89 on pro tournaments was the major reason. Those occurred during the spring of 1975 and except for that period income has equaled expenditures.

Budget - The proposed (enclosed) budget was presented and gone over item by item. The Board recognized that it was dependent on what ball royalty we negotiate and therefore difficult to estimate.

Official Ball Report - Shy reported on the background of the official ball and why a change in manufacturers was made last year. Vittert had offered a product that would not break, they agreed to the same royalty basis as we had with Seamco and they were willing to work with us to improve their product to our needs.

Throughout the year Vittert has worked hard toward this but it has become evident the one piece process will not lend the quality needed. Vittert has now committed to change and make a two piece compression molded ball. Production is expected in the fall.

While studying the ball situation it was brought to the IRA's attention that amateur softball had had problems legally with the official ball distinction. We investigated and found that the exclusive official ball is probably a violation of restraint of trade laws and could be a problem for us. ✓

We have been negotiating with AMF-Voit on the basis that official specifications will be set and anyone meeting those specs and working with us on an equitable royalty basis could have an official ball. Vittert has agreed to this and we felt Voit would also at a rate of 5%. However, Voit's most recent offer has been for only 2 1/2% - the same rate we currently receive from them for approved status.

Seamco has been talking to us through Bill Tanner and have indicated an interest in again being the official ball. Their legal department feels comfortable in their position at present regarding official ball status with the NRC and feel there would be no problems in working with us.

Shy asked for a vote from the Board as to which concept to pursue should the financial arrangements produce similar returns and the Board voted 8-1 to pursue the open ball concept.

Royalty Contracts - McKie reported that a racquet royalty contract had been signed with Continental Leisure Sports, Santa Ana, California. Contracts are also being negotiated with Sunset Sporting Goods, Kansas City, Missouri (representatives will meet with the Board later today), and Master Knitwear, Milwaukee, Wisconsin on a sweater.

Payment to States - McKie explained the problems that arose when payments to the states were initiated. Some states have no state association and some have broken with the IRA. While the IRA has a responsibility toward the states it also has a responsibility to see the money goes to a functioning entity that is working with the IRA. Shy set up a committee of Chambers, Marks, and Grapes to report back to the Board with some guidelines for distribution.

Regional Winners Payments to the IRA Championships - The Board voted to continue our present policy and if the funds are available to increase the juniors and women's open winners to full coach fare. The Board also clarified the present policy to cover payment to the winner, runner-up or third place finisher - the highest finisher of the three that makes the trip. No minimum number of entries is needed in a regional to qualify a player for a trip.

Travel Payments to Defending IRA Champions - The Board reiterated that its policy is not to pay any travel expenses to defending champions or place winners but to concentrate all its resources toward the regionals.

Canadian Report - Canadian representative, John Chambers reported his term of office expires with this meeting and the Canadian Board has chosen Ivan Velan to replace him.

Canadian racquetball has made great strides this past year coming out with a newsletter (magazine) and obtaining grants from the Canadian government for travel. However, all grants are earmarked specifically for certain travel allowances and can't be used for administrative costs.

The CRA has worked out agreements with both AMF-Voit and Vittert to both be official balls and has found this arrangement to work very satisfactory for the association.

The CRA has had strong feelers from the NRC-USRA but wants to remain affiliated with the IRA.

National Sporting Goods Show Report - The 1976 Show was held in Chicago in February and was attended by McKie and Shy. The IRA did not have a booth but circulated instead and it was Shy's feeling this was the best approach for the IRA. Sixty-six manufacturers displayed racquetball equipment and both McKie and Shy felt it important that the IRA attend this show every year.

State Chairmen and Regional Commissioners Convention - McKie reported the minutes of the meetings had been distributed to the Board. It was held in New Orleans in December and was attended by about 25 chairmen. The interaction of information and rapport established were very helpful to the IRA. Next fall's meeting will be in Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

Site of the National Offices - The Board voted to move the offices from their temporary headquarters in Memphis to Dallas, Texas. McKie has expressed a desire to have them there where he owns a home and the Board felt the offices could function more effectively there where the Executive Director would be happiest. With the Presidency possibly changing every year it was felt impractical to attempt to keep the offices in the same city as the President. It was felt that as the association grows at some time in the future the offices will become permanently associated with one place and then any change in staff would mean the new personnel would come to the office rather than the office coming to them.

Magazine Cost and Improvement - The magazine is currently running us about \$1.20 an issue and we are printing 10,000 copies. It was felt the magazine could be more effectively produced if it were printed in the same city as the offices. Also looked at were additional advertising revenue sources and the possibility of hiring an advertising agency.

Intercollegiate - The number of players in the colleges were discussed and means to recruit them as members of the association were explored. It was felt some incentive program should be tried in this area.

The past intercollegiate tournament was held in Champaign, Illinois and did not have as large an entry as expected. The 1977 tournament is scheduled for Memphis State University, March 18-20.

Pro Circuit - The pro circuit this past year had only three stops due to a lack of sponsorship money. The Board felt as they did last year that pro racquetball is good for the IRA but it should be on a self-sustaining basis. The consensus was that the ball situation needs to be settled before plans for the pro circuit can be worked up.

Rules Report - A written report from Charlie Brumfield was read by all Board members and it was agreed the linesman concept which we have used for the past year is good. The following rule changes were recommended by the Board to the membership:

- 1) As an experiment all regionals and state tournaments during the 1976-77 season will use 15 point games (with a win by two - 21 point maximum rule). Next year at the membership meeting we will vote on acceptance or rejection of this rule.

- 2) The current T-shirt rule was changed to: include any shirt considered in good taste by the referee (final determinant to be the tournament director).
- 3) The time out rule was clarified to include a wet glove time out must be changed against the three time outs allowed. It is not an equipment time out.

Nominating Committee Report - Chairman, Bill Dunn presented the committees slate:

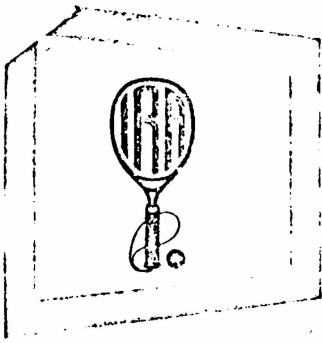
Bob Peterson - Boise, Idaho
Pete Crumney - Fort Devens, Massachusetts
V. Z. Lawton - Norman, Oklahoma

The Board voted to present these to the membership.

Old Business and New Business - Due to the lateness of the day the Board deferred action on any additional business until its Sunday meeting.

Thomas D. McKie
Executive Director

TDM:lgm



INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 31481, Suite 1012 • Dallas, Texas 75231 • 214-690-0244

TOM McKIE
Executive Director
Res. Ph. 214-495-6757

MINUTES OF THE IRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

SUNDAY, MAY 30, 1976 CHATTANOOGA, TN

The meeting was called to order by President DeWitt Shy at 1:45 p.m.

Three new by-laws were passed to add to the constitution:

- 1) An officer may be removed from office by a 2/3 vote of the Board.
- 2) If an officer of the Board dies, resigns, or is removed a new officer will be elected by the entire Board.
- 3) A director may be removed from the Board by a 2/3 vote of the membership at its annual meeting.

New Officers:

President: Tanner and Bruner nominated

Vote: Tanner - 8 Bruner - 0 Abstention - 1

Vice President: Bruner (acclamation)

Secretary-Treasurer: Murphy (acclamation)

National Commissioner - Lawton (acclamation)

National Rules Chairman - Dunn (acclamation)

At-Large Member of the Executive Committee: Grapes and Marks nominated

Vote: Grapes - 5 Marks - 2 Abstention - 2

Chairman of Equipment Evaluation Committee - Dunn

Old Business

- 1) Talked about the Hall of Fame Committee. McKie will check on its regulations and find out its membership.
- 2) Regional entry fees and what the player should receive. Board decided there should be a checklist of minimum requirements for the regional tournaments.
- 3) Board decided to hold a 2nd yearly board meeting before the IRA Doubles Championships in the fall.

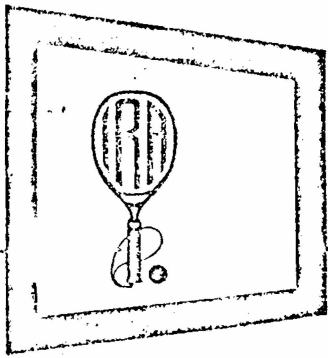
- 4) Board decided to hold four executive committee meetings per year.
- 5) Ball - motion was made that the IRA adopt an open ball policy, i.e., any company that will meet our minimum requirements and standards will receive the official ball designation provided they will also agree to the uniform financial arrangements the IRA has set forth for that designation. Motion passed unanimously.
- 6) Magazine Committee set:
McKie Velan Grapes
Murphy Crummev
- 7) Recommended that new state chairmen and regional commissioners be appointed in those areas where the incumbents are not doing their job.

New Business

- 1) A new 11th Region -- Europe -- be established with the travel allowances from point of entry to the Nationals the same as in other regions. Passed unanimously.
- 2) Moved to have Tanner make social contact with Kendler at the NRC tournament and if the opportunity presents itself look at working relationship possibilities. Passed unanimously.
- 3) Definition of a Pro: Committee: McKie Dunn
 Steding Lawton
- 4) Raise of \$100/month for the Executive Director tabled to the Executive Committee meeting (raise to be retroactive to June 1 if approved at that time).
- 5) Refund to the states - to any state that has a viable organization. Refunds will continue on memberships received through August 31, 1976 and discontinued after that date.

Suggestion that \$1 of every tournament entry fee be delegated to the state organization.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.



Tom McKie

INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 31481, Suite 1012 • Dallas, Texas 75231 • 214-690-0244

November 5, 1976

TOM McKIE
Executive Director
Res. Ph. 214-495-6757

IRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

HOUSTON, TEXAS

October 28-29, 1976

The mid-year IRA Board of Directors Meeting was called to order by President Bill Tanner at 1:30 p.m.

Financial Report - Tom McKie presented a six month financial report showing the Association had income of \$88,677.14 and expenditures of \$85,530.18 (a net gain of \$3,146.96) for the period April 1 through September 30, 1976. Questions were asked about advertising revenue and McKie explained how new contracts have been signed substantially increasing the amount of advertising revenue this coming year. Our present payables amount to about \$17,000 (\$14,000 on the magazine) while we have accrued royalties and advertising of about the same. However much of that will not be received until February 1977.

Ball Report - Bill Tanner explained how negotiations had gone with Seamco over the past five months and how he had finally flown down to LaGrange, Georgia on October 21st with his lawyer and returned with a signed contract by Seamco. He presented the contract to the Board for ratification. Discussion ensued on a page by page basis.

Principle discussion centered on the interpretation of the pay-out schedule and it was explained as thus by Bill Tanner (in conjunction with the attorney that wrote the contract):

- 1st Year: \$15,000.00 immediately
25,500.00 for tournaments
6,250.00 a month beginning December 1, 1976 through June 1977
and then possibly adjusted for the remaining five months depending on sales.
.75 per dozen on our ball sales after royalty has been applied against the above three items.
- 2nd Year: \$25,500.00 for tournaments
6,250.00 a month
.75 per dozen on our ball sales (above the \$75,000 being drawn) up to sales of 150,000 dozen and 50¢ on sale above that
- 3rd Year: Same as the second year.

After much discussion it was moved by Marks and seconded by Steding that the contract be approved. The motion was passed unanimously.

The ball schedule is being projected as follows:

Immediately - the cans are being ordered

January 1 - ball on the market

January 1 through October 31 projected - 180,000 dozen sold

The next year projected - 300,000 dozen sold

The Board recommended a warranty be placed on the can and issued a wording of it for Tanner to pass along to Seamco for implementation after possible modification.

It was emphasized Seamco needs to push information on our ball along to its jobbers and distributors.

The recommendation was passed that Tanner approach Seamco about having them send a new can of our balls to every IRA member stating "Have a ball on Us" type campaign as an excellent way to get the word out on our new ball. A short message should be included jointly from the IRA President and Seamco President. Also a can of balls should be sent to each new member of the IRA as they join.

McKie was instructed to write an article to the members asking them to contact their state chairman if they are having problems with the ball or getting it.

It was suggested Seamco should send a mailing to all clubs announcing the new ball.

McKie was asked to inform the state chairmen on the free ball policy for major and state tournaments.

Ball Report - Vittert and Voit - McKie noted that we have a contract with Vittert that needs to be re-negotiated. Bruner moved, seconded by Lawton that McKie act on the Board's behalf to write Vittert offering a settlement. The motion was passed unanimously.

McKie indicated Voit's last royalty check was about \$14,000 and that periodically they make noises about being unhappy with their contract. He had recently written to them assuring them we still promoted their ball.

Budget - The Board asked McKie to project a new budget based on our new royalty contract.

Liability - It was moved by Bruner and seconded by Grapes that the IRA obtain some comprehensive general liability insurance. Passed unanimously. Cal Murphy will pursue this. It was recommended that we have the people we do business with listed as additional insured.

Magazine - McKie announced he had made arrangements with a graphics company in Dallas to begin producing the magazine (starting with the January issue). The cost will be about the same as now and the convenience of working with someone close will be a big gain.

Suggestions for improving the magazine included more instruction and some articles on injuries. Being more regular in coming out was a concern and improving the design was felt important. McKie stated he felt the new editors should help toward conquering these problems.

It was suggested about once a year we need an article in the magazine explaining our philosophy and the basis of the differences between the associations. It was recommended this be sent to the state chairmen first.

Holiday Inn Report - Tanner presented a proposal from Holiday Inn where they would pay the IRA \$10,000 a year in exchange for the IRA guaranteeing 8,000-12,000 room nights. After much discussion the Board decided this was not a feasible arrangement and suggested to Tanner he attempt to reach a different agreement or to drop the negotiations.

IRA Singles Championships 1977 - McKie reported the tournament will be held Saturday through Tuesday, May 28-31, 1977 at Racquetime of Southfield, Michigan. This is a new 30 court club with excellent viewing and they want to host it.

State Chairmens Meeting - The 3rd Annual Meeting was held September 25-26, 1976 in Dallas at the site of the IRA National Headquarters. Minutes of it were sent to the Board. Those in attendance felt the meeting was very beneficial to them. Regional meetings were also suggested and now being implemented.

Rules Committee - Chairman Bill Dunn is writing an article for each magazine issue covering some facet of the rules.

The present regional plan was discussed which allows regional cross-overs if the distance to a regional site is closer in a neighboring region. The Board voted to keep the present policy.

The 15 point game was discussed and agreed it needed to be used the rest of the year before a decision will be made. The Internationals next spring will be played to 21 points.

A decision on what constitutes a professional has not been made as the NRC does not want to work in conjunction with us. Bill Dunn is working on one for the IRA.

Membership - McKie presented a proposal offering clubs a discount if they solicited members and sent them in in multiples of 10 or more. Lawton moved and Steding seconded that the proposal be implemented. Passed unanimously.

Bruner moved and Lawton seconded that a complimentary magazine be sent to each club each time. Passed unanimously.

A new member drive by offering a discount was moved by Dunn and seconded by Steding. The proposal is \$9 for two and \$12 for three (buy two get the third one free). Passed unanimously.

Pro Tour - Tanner presented a proposed contract between IPRO and the IRA.

Basically IPRO would run a minimum of three pro-am tournaments a year with IPRO picking up all the income and paying all the expenses. The IRA would only help with entry blank distribution and furnish brackets and scorecards. After much discussion Steding moved and Dunn seconded that the Board approve the IPRO concept contingent upon the contract being re-written to the Boards recommendations. Passed unanimously.

Pro Tour Dates - Confirmed are: Memphis, Tennessee - December 9-12, 1976.
Tucson, Arizona - January 20-23, 1977.

Old Business - The Board approved a raise of \$100 a month for McKie and asked the Executive Committee to review his job description and update it.