

Portsmouth & District AGM 2022

Tuesday 22nd March, 7pm
Online Zoom Meeting

Attendees:

Barbara Wilkie (Chair), Michael Isaacs (District League Secretary), Alan Best (Treasurer), Andy Gilliatt (Stand-in Chair), Lois Nash (Committee Secretary), Karen Downie (Committee Member), Carrie Bateman (Committee Member), Chris and Stuart Doherty (Swanmore), Florence Gimonet (JEM Tennis), Ann Clark and Dawn Dewilde (Southsea), Sue Foott (Chichester), Richard Perkins (Seacourt), Gwen Isaacs, Penny Redwood (Sarisbury Green), Maureen Parker (Stubbington), Syd Quinn, Janet Armitage (Warsash), Rob Mort (Avenue), Matt Bennett (Rowlands C), Trish Smart (Alverstoke), Rob Andrews (Ryde Mead)

1. Acting Chairman's Welcome

Andy Gilliatt (Avenue) was Acting Chairman, welcomed attendees and explained some best practices for the meeting to ensure it ran smoothly

Michael Isaacs welcomed everyone to the Zoom meeting and let it be known that the meeting was being recorded. MI welcomed Swanmore as a new entrant in the league. MI reflected that the Covid restrictions had been good for tennis being one of the few sports allowed at the time which encouraged increased participation and an influx of new members to clubs. He said that the Summer 2020 season was cancelled, Winter 2020/21 was run as a non-competitive, optional season but Summer 2022 is back to normal. MI said thank you to everyone for trying to keep the leagues going.

Other news was that there had sadly been 2 losses of well-known P&D players in the last 2 years which was sad to reflect.

Lois Nash has been made Chair of the Hampshire & IOW LTA as well as being on the P&D committee and Club Manager of JEM Tennis. Congratulations were offered to Lois from the meeting

2. Apologies

Paula Fuge (Committee), Natalie Denby (Avenue), Jan Grant (Warsash), Mark Goodrich (David Lloyd), Jazz Kemble (Fishbourne), Aurelie Hemple (JEM Tennis), Libby Swain (Chichester), Simon Baughan (Ryde Mead), Linda Jones (Ventnor), Denise Franks (Warsash), Sarah Grey (Warsash)

3. 2020 Minutes and Matters Arising and Adoption

There was an issue regarding a captain sending an unpleasant correspondence to a committee member regards the running of the league. An apology has been received by the committee member, their club and the league so the matter is now settled.

4. Treasurer's Report

Alan Best (Rowland's Castle) said that there had been one season of income and two seasons of expenditure. The expenditure has only been the website which has been

covered as there was no presentation evening or trophies. There was £787 in the bank at 28/2/22.

5. Secretaries Report

MI reported that it was a successful winter season: 2 teams withdrew, 400 matches were played, 12 matches were left to play currently, only a handful of walkovers and 4 teams off a record entry. He thanked everyone for their support and he thinks the winter league will finish on time.

Paula Fuge reported that the Ladies matches will also finish on time too.

Alan Best reported that the Master's League had run like clockwork with the midweek matches having better weather than the weekend ones. There were barely any cancellations and the scorecards were returned quickly which helped him with the Portsmouth News write up for the weekend as his deadline is Thursday. He thanked everyone for supplying photos as the News has been very good publishing 2 photos per week plus write up over a ¾ page.

6. Summer Leagues

It was reported there had been a very strong and encouraging entry to the summer leagues with a near highest ever entry of 127 teams compared to 125 in the last full summer season of 2019. The current entry included the participation of one new club: Swanmore LTC

7. Covid – Cancellations

There was a division of thought between the club representatives regards how to cope with Covid. Many said treat it like any other illness, we have to live with it so just get on with playing matches and if you can't take 4 players you take 2 instead. There was a concern that clubs would use Covid as an excuse if they can't get a team or haven't got their best players available. The IOW teams have a particular problem with cancellations where they have a backlog of matches to be fit in at the end of the season.

MI said that as a League we wanted to be considerate regards the cancellations and rearrangements of matches due to Covid and actually most clubs have been pretty relaxed as long as both sides agree.

Stuart Doherty (Swanmore) said that the Southampton League were following government guidelines to treat Covid as any other illness. If the cancellation wasn't weather related then a team or half a team has to be fielded.

Barbara Wilkie and Sue Foott said that the Portsmouth League is unique where we use ferries and hovercrafts so there is an issue with public transport and travelling in one car more than other leagues. Barbara said there are a lot of teachers and medics in the teams and it's not fair to make them play if they are uncomfortable with travelling or playing.

MI mooted the idea that if a match was called off at short notice due to Covid then if both teams agreed, each team would be awarded 2 points or they could reschedule. The general consensus was that teams wanted to play the matches and not take the

points. AB said that only 5-10 matches had been rescheduled due to Covid so was a low number proving that people would rather play.

In summary MI said we have to live with Covid and need to get the balance right. The League didn't want to pressurize teams but also didn't want an easy option to postpone a match. The situation is not ideal and it was decided not to add anything to the rules.

8. General League Administration

(a) Summer 3rd set tie break – by agreement

Currently the rules are that in the winter there is a 3rd set tiebreak and in the summer it is a full 3rd set. The Master's League has a 3rd set tie break for the summer and winter season. MI said that the decision regarding the 3rd set should be agreed before the match starts but if before the 3rd set it becomes apparent what the outcome will be then if mutually agreeable a tie break can be played instead.

Karen Downie (Warsash) said that a 3rd set tiebreak scorecard gives 1-0, 1-0 which is important if you are using games as countback. She also expressed concern for potential disagreement.

Alan Best said that he has been involved with leagues for 10-15 years and had only had an issue once and it went down to number of rubbers and not games so this was not actually an issue.

If there is any disagreement then it reverts to the rules and a full set is played.

A vote was taken for a 3rd set tiebreak with both sides agreeing: 11 in favour, 1 against

(b) Conceded matches/walkovers – points deduction?

MI said that this season there were no deductions as the league was getting back to normal and did not know how things were going to go.

Paula asked that if there was a walkover could both teams let the league know.

A vote was taken for reverting back to 4-0, 8-0 48-0, -1 point

The vote was unanimously in favour.

(c) Master's matches start time

The rules for the Mixed Master's League says the start time should be 10am-12.30pm. Avenue play all their matches at 2pm. Should the rule be changed?

There were some queries why Avenue started matches at 2pm. The issue stems from the matches being played on grass and having to be later in the day to allow them to dry out. There was uncertainty about the actual time the courts were available to play.

MI and AB said that there were not that many matches to organise in the Master's League and they have lots of notice with the whole of the summer to get them played so shouldn't be a problem. The Master's League is Monday to Friday and is up to the clubs to choose a time and day so very flexible so this flexibility should be reflected in the rules.

A vote was taken to remove the fixed start time and was passed unanimously.

9. Rescheduling Postponed Matches

MI said that if you have to postpone your match please reschedule as soon as possible. IOW teams always suffer with cancellations which causes a problem at the end of the season with too many matches trying to be rescheduled.

10. World Tennis Number

The LTA introduced the WTN and now district league matches can be added to a players results. The LTA wants to be able to add the results to their software but the P&D software is bespoke and not compatible. There are many leagues in the same position. The LTA have been approached for advice on how to record our results and we are waiting to hear back.

11. After Match Teas

MI includes guidance for post-match refreshments in his welcome letter at the beginning of the season. It is up to the home team what refreshments they provide Barbara Wilkie said captains should liaise to check if the away team is staying and what they would prefer.

Gwen Isaacs – Nice to have tea and a choice.

MI – Everyone seems to be happy with tea and cake later in the day but may prefer more if lunchtime especially for IOW teams. Post-match refreshments are part of the league and encourages friendliness but should be up to the home team to liaise with the away team.

12. Wightlink – Isle of Wight Matches

The P&D League has a unique situation with regards travel to and from the IOW. Ferry prices have increased. Some clubs subsidise this cost and some don't. MI has negotiated a better discount and it is now not restricted from certain dates and times to anytime. MI asked captains and clubs to encourage their players to play the IOW matches.

13. Solent Cup

2020 Solent Cup didn't happen. The Southampton League wanted to use the 2020 teams for the 2021 Cup. The 2021 Solent Cup was arranged at short notice in October at Lee-on-the-Solent Tennis Club. In the event the Southampton League couldn't raise a ladies team. The men's match result was Winchester beat Warsash 4-0.

The 2022 Solent Cup is on the 9th April at Thornden. The ladies match is Chichester v Winchester and the men's match is Warsash v Warsash.

14. Awards Presentation Evening – Hospitality Awards/Colin Manvell Awards

There was a vote to see if there was support for the evening to go ahead and it was a unanimous yes.

The presentation evening will be held at Lee-on-the-Solent Tennis Club, date to be confirmed. There will be no catering award but will continue with the Colin Manvell award.

15. New Committee Members – Succession Planning

MI pleaded again for volunteers to help with learning the administration of the League. MI took over in 2009 when the last administrators gave up over-night and deleted everything with the result The League about to fold. Since then The League has put in place the infrastructure, systems and IT support. So to ensure the continued success of The P&D, MI asked for clubs to ask their members for any volunteers to support the league in the future.

16. Election of Officers

All officers are happy to stand again. A vote was taken and all in favour.

17. AOB

Nothing to report.

18. Close Meeting

Meeting ended 8.48pm

**** Attendees to be added**