

Portsmouth & IOW District LTA Annual General Meeting

Date: Thursday 12th March 2015

Venue: Avenue Lawn Tennis Club

Present

Jim Skinner (Chairman)
Michael Isaacs (District League Secretary)
Carrie Bateman (League Secretary)
Paula Fuge (Ladies Winter League Secretary & Committee)
Alan Best - (Treasurer)
Karen Downie (Committee)
Lois Nash (Committee)
Sue Foot (Chichester)
Jon Hurst (PTA)
Mel Davis (Carlton)
Elaine Philip (Carlton)
Gwen Isaacs (Sarisbury G)
Ann Clark (Southsea)
Tim Clark (Southsea)
Dawn Dewilde (Southsea)
Florence Gimonet (JEM Hamble)
Simon Barry (Wickham),

Sue Kitt (Warsash)
Maureen Parker Stubbington)
Trish Smart (Alverstoke)
Jeremy Smart (Alverstoke)
Hammy Haze (Priory)
Phil Tusler (Avenue)
Rob Mort (Avenue)
Sara Robson (Avenue)

Meeting commenced at 7.30pm

Apologies for Absence

Angela Stafford (Southsea), Kirsty Roberts, Simon Baughan (Ryde Mead), Linda Jones (Ventnor) & Lee on Solent.

The Minutes of 2014 AGM

The minutes of the 2014 AGM agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Matters Arising

None

Chairman's Report

Jim thanked all those who attended and was pleased to inform members that the past year 2014/15 year the weather weekend had been good for the district league.

He gave thanks to Alan Beat for the tremendous coverage over the last 12months with the newspaper coverage.

He also informed the meeting that the Trophy Presentation evening was on its 4th year and was well supported by all league players but would like to encourage more players to attend, highlighting the excellent buffet and next one would be again at Lee on-Solent in October 2015.

Jim further commented that the Solent cup was won by Men's Warsash but unfortunately Lee ladies were beaten by Winchester the next one would be held at Winchester TC on Saturday 18th April 2015 against this year's Men's & Ladies Champions.

Treasurers Report

Alan handed round financial reports. He observed that in the last year The League had recorded a loss due to extra cost in enhancing and maintaining the website and that past general admin costs that Michael Isaacs had previously absorbed himself were reimbursed. The committee felt it was important that all bone fide costs were reflected as it gave a false impression that the position was better than the reality. These costs had been amended accordingly to show more accurate expenditure. However, Alan reported that despite the extra expense, there were sufficient funds within the account to continue to enhance the status of the league.

League Secretary Reports

Winter Season 2014/15

On behalf of Paula and himself Michael informed the committee that the current season was slightly strange winter weather. Although not as wet as previous years so many weeks had been dry through the weeks and the heavy rain at weekends which the league behind at the start of the season. There had been 85 entries for the winter season, one more than the previous year and this was a new high.

At the time of the meeting there were 16 ladies matches, 7 mens matches and 15 mixed matches still to be played. It is hoped that the following three weekends will be kind! Michael did reiterate that postponed games were still not being rearranged quick enough, with the consequential end of season fixtures pile-up to deal with.

Summer Season 2015

There had been had been record entries of 84 teams up 1 from last year, Promotion and relegation has been fairly straight forward this year and the format closely followed last summer. Michael informed the members that one late withdrawal of a ladies team today has meant Div. 3 is slightly affected and because of the late stage of the withdrawal, with all the fixtures having been published, there was no possibility of re-arranging the divisions accordingly.

He confirmed, the winners of this year's winter ladies league, still to be determined, and men's winners, which are Warsash once again, will compete for The Solent Cup as representatives of The P&D LTA on the 18th April, at Winchester TC, 11am start. All spectators welcome.

League issues

Michael reminded the meeting that matches should not be called off early in case of bad weather, and although it is hoped that teams would be discussing prospects of play together it is the home side that have final say. It was also important that all captains acquainted themselves with the rules.

Michael thanked captains for getting scorecards back in quickly, but highlighted there are still some who seem not to feel the need to get their scorecards back in good time or at all! With technology today it is so easy, most players have smart phones and if the cards are completed, photoed and sent at the end of the match while enjoying a sumptuous match tea and they won't get him nagging them later!

He encouraged every mainland team to fulfil their matches on IOW. He stated the IOW teams are an important and integral part of the league. With the Wightlink discount now available, it makes travel cheaper too.

Michael confirmed that both the catering trophies and The Colin Manvell Sportsmanship Trophy will again be awarded for the summer season.

Wightlink

Michael was delighted to announce that he has been finally able to arrange a discount for all players wishing to use the ferries. However please be aware in the summer there are some dates where restrictions apply and the discount may not always be available, but for most of the year it offers, so it is hoped all teams make the most of it. However, he stated once again, it is ONLY to be used for bone-fide P&D matches or business.

Awards Presentation Evening

It was confirmed the awards presentation evening would once again be held at Lee-On-The-Solent TC on Thursday 15th October. He urged all clubs to attend and thanked Lee for their continued hosting and co-sponsorship of the event.

Michael congratulated Alan on his continued report writing for the leagues Portsmouth News weekly round-up, thanked the committee for their support throughout the year and thanked the members for their continued involvement

Election of Officers

All committee members were willing to continue their involvement. Carrie, however, indicated she would wish to relinquish the role of Committee Secretary after completing these AGM minutes.

Proposal for a Vets League

Alan Best informed the meeting that the committee had received requests in the past for a vets league. As such the league intends to create a new vet's midweek daytime summer league to run between May & September. Qualifying age of players would be 45+ ladies and 50+ men. He also informed members that the points would be awarded slightly different than the normal leagues, whereby points given differently with 2-2 result from a 4-0 result for example. The floor was opened for questions and the following were received:-

Gwen Isaacs (Sarisbury),

Q: We would find difficulty getting men out in the week during the day; could we arrange the matches in the eve?

A: I am afraid that is not practical, you will have to find retired men to play

Phil Tusler (Avenue)

Q: Wouldn't winter be more useful as more difficult in the summer, less happening in the winter?

A: I understand but we would like to get the ball rolling on this

Dawn Dewilde (Southsea)

Q: Do you mean Wednesday (midweek)?

A: Whatever suits the individual club, as long as it's during the week.

Clubs who indicated an initial interest in joining this league were as follows:

Sarisbury Green, Wickham, Chichester, Avenue, Carlton, Ryde Lawn, Rowlands, Warsash & PTA

Michael requested that could all the clubs present confirm ASAP and he will chase up other clubs as they would need to move quickly to get it up and running by May this year.

AOB

Rob Mort (Avenue) announced The Avenue TC are hosting a Grade 4 Senior Tennis Tournament on the 22 - 26th June 2015, and asked members to sign up if they could to enable a successful Tournament this year (Handed out posters).

Meeting ended at 8.32pm