

PORTSMOUTH & DISTRICT LTA – AGM

Date: Thursday 15th March 2018

Venue: Avenue Tennis Club

Time: 7.30pm

Attendees

Committee:

Michael Isaacs (District League Secretary & Warsash Tennis Club)

Barbara Wilkie (Chair & Lee-on-the-Solent Tennis Club)

Lois Nash (League Secretary & JEM Tennis, Hamble)

Alan Best (Treasurer & Rowland's Castle Tennis Club)

Carrie Bateman (Ryde Lawn Tennis Club)

Karen Downie (Warsash Tennis Club)

Andy Gilliat (Avenue Tennis Club)

Florence Gimonet (JEM Hamble), Richard Perkins (Seacourt), Nick Challis (Lee), Gill House (Rowlands Castle), Maureen Parker (Stubbington), Lynn Candlish (Canoe Lake), Tim Clark (Canoe Lake), Dawn Dewilde (Southsea), Trish Smart (Alverstoke), Matt Bennett (Rowland's Castle), Susan Scorcia (Ventnor), Rob Mort (Avenue), Gwen Isaacs (Sarisbury Green), Chris Weatherill (Carlton), Richard Hutchins (Ryde Lawn), James Cooney (Ryde Lawn), Leah Clifton (PTA), Sue Foott (Chichester), Bob Murray (Fishbourne)

Apologies:

Paula Fuge (PTA), Simon Baughan (Ryde Mead), Linda Jones (Ventnor), Alex Parent (Priory), Martyn Cox (Southsea), Michael Waring (Southsea), Angela Stafford (Southsea), Anne Clark (Southsea)

1. Chairman's Welcome

Barbara Wilkie introduced the committee and thanked Avenue Tennis Club for hosting the AGM and providing the room, food and refreshments.

2. Apologies

Paula Fuge (PTA), Simon Baughan (Ryde Mead), Linda Jones (Ventnor), Alex Parent (Priory), Martyn Cox (Southsea), Michael Waring (Southsea), Angela Stafford (Southsea), Anne Clark (Southsea)

3. 2017 Minutes and Matters Arising

Covered within the current agenda.

4. Treasurer's Report

There was a slight loss of £193 due to the website and cost of new trophies due to the League expanding. This was, however, not unexpected. The entry fees have been increased from £4 to £5 per team which puts the League back into profit next year. There will be another year of expense for the website. The League is not intending to produce profits but ideally should break even.

5. Secretaries Report

Men's and Mixed Leagues

Michael Isaacs reported that the season was running out of weekends to complete all the outstanding matches. The new rule of no rescheduling after May and November had worked well. For the winter season there were many 2-2 draws and above average amount of tied matches.

Michael said a thank you to Seacourt for their support of the League with their men's team. This summer season there are 113 teams compared to 109 last year. Michael said he tries to keep the divisions fair and competitive and may have to do a bit of adjustment at his discretion to make this happen.

Michael said that the committee does its best to remain impartial and needs a set of rules to give everyone a framework to work under. He said he is very proud of our set of rules compared to other leagues and we continue to update them which is why the AGM is so important.

Michael still had some scorecards outstanding and Alan said there had been issues with the eligibility of scorecards. He asked that full names are written for all players and that it is easy to take a picture on your phone and send it off immediately. Alan also asked for photographs for the Portsmouth News. He would be able to keep them as stock so don't have to be current.

Michael wanted to stress how important the IOW clubs are to the League and how we should encourage our teams to embrace travelling over from the mainland to play.

Michael said that the Colin Manvell Trophy will continue and that we would consider keeping the Catering Cup in point 14 of the agenda.

The website is still being redesigned in order to make it more flexible. Michael said he will devote more of his time to it after the winter season.

Michael thanked the committee but particularly Alan for all he does for the League. He also thanked the secretaries and captains for their enthusiasm. The success of the League depends on co-operation, consideration and goodwill between all the clubs which we have in abundance.

Master's League

Alan Best reported that there had been 85 matches in the summer season and 101 matches in the winter season. He said that the weather may hinder the last few matches of the season.

6. Court Safety

There is an issue where there is pressure to play a match but the conditions also need to be safe. A situation arose where one team wanted to play and the other team did not. Michael was asked to bring the issue up at the AGM. He concluded that it was an impossible situation and that good sense should prevail with both sides being considerate and cooperative and trying to avoid confrontation.

7. Winter Fixtures

(a) Number of Fixtures/Divisions

The Ladies teams have divisions of 6 with 10 matches, 5 home and 5 away. Other teams have 7 or 8 fixtures. The last month is usually kept free of fixtures in order to reschedule matches due to bad weather. Unfortunately, clubs have been rearranging matches at the beginning of the season into the last month which then blocks the dates and causes a backlog of matches at the end of the season. The IOW teams have had a lot of problems with this.

Michael proposed that we change the ladies divisions to 8 fixtures to relieve the pressure. If it was changed to 8 then the divisions would be in alignment. Some teams would miss out and some would benefit. There was also the issue of playing home and away with less teams in a division or not.

Karen Downie (Warsash) and Sue Foott (Chichester) both prefer 8 teams instead of 10.

Dawn Dewilde (Southsea) said it was the only league they play so they prefer 10 matches.

Carrie Bateman (Ryde Lawn) and Nick Challis (Lee) like the variety of playing at different clubs so not as keen on home and away.

Gill House (Rowland's Castle) said there is a problem with larger clubs having court space. She prefers home and away because of the court surface.

The men seem to be happy with their current system and do not want home and away. It was felt that this was a particularly bad season due to the weather.

A vote was taken to keep things as they are or to decrease the ladies divisions to 8 teams or 5 teams with the home and away format.

To keep it as is – everyone, abstain – 2

Outcome: To keep things as they are for now and look at it again next year.

(b) Summer/Winter – Implementation of Dates

This is the 3rd season that the League has given out the fixtures dates instead of the past pre-AGM fixtures meeting. Alan Best said that he is learning each time he does it as it is very awkward taking into account the bigger and smaller club's constraints. He said that he starts with a fixture every 2 weeks for each team and then allocates home and away and then

takes into account the court constraints after that. Clubs still have the option to reschedule once they receive their fixtures and the big clubs will always have problems with the amount of teams and court space.

8. Weekday/Friday Night Fixtures?

There is no reason why matches have to be played on a Saturday or Sunday if both clubs agree on an alternative date.

Florence Gimonet (JEM Hamble) said she had played a match on a Monday night recently which was out of lack of alternative dates but she wouldn't want that to become a regular thing.

Andy Gilliat (Avenue) said he wanted to play their home matches on grass and they wouldn't be finished in time so did not want evening fixtures.

Barbara Wilkie concluded that playing matches other than at the weekend was best for rescheduled matches and not as a general rule.

9. Promotion/Relegation – 3 teams from one club in same division

The rule last year was that no division can have more than 2 teams from the same club. Currently Men's Division 2 have Avenue 2 and Avenue 3 but Avenue 1 is due to be relegated but because of the rule Michael was unable to leading him to consider this rule needs a rethink. He asked what would happen if Avenue 4 won Division 3 and then also couldn't be promoted. Michael asked if it was fair or should the rule be rescinded.

Andy Gilliat (Avenue) said the situation had arisen because there had been transitions between squads and captains and they hadn't properly selected the players to the correct teams. He said that the rule shouldn't be changed just because of Avenue as from now on their teams were going to be more distinct.

Karen Downie (Warsash) said it's no fun when clubs have to play themselves.

Tim Clark (Canoe Lake) said it doesn't happen very often.

Maureen Parker (Stubbington) said if this is what has happened then that's just how it is.

James Cooney (Ryde Lawn) said why can't we promote teams as tennis is all about winning. He also said that the affected clubs should be given one season to sort themselves out which everyone was in agreement.

10. Third Set Tie-Break?

Currently the winter season and the Master's League has a 3rd set championship tie break and the summer season has 3 full sets.

Alan Best (Rowland's Castle) said that the Hampshire & IOW Council said they were worried that participation was dropping and that matches were too long. They want a countrywide standard of 2 pair matches instead of 3 pairs and a 3rd set championship tie break. It is not

compulsory but the council will recommend it. He thought that division 1 teams would probably want to play 3 full sets as opposed to the lower divisions.

Sue Foott (Chichester) said she would like a 3rd set championship tie break as they wanted the matches to end quicker to help players with young families. She said they have teams in the Sussex and other leagues that have a 3rd set tie break too.

Michael Isaacs (Warsash) said the game of tennis is traditionally 3 sets. He also said on the other hand there is some waiting around for rubbers to finish.

James Cooney (Ryde Lawn) said they like to play as much tennis as possible as teams from the IOW playing on the mainland like to get good value for money for their time and expense. He also said he doesn't like to finish the 2nd set on a tie break then go straight into another one.

Tim Clark (Canoe Lake) said he likes the battle and test of endurance but the tie break is more of a mental challenge. He understood it is more necessary in the winter as matches need to finish quicker.

Dawn Dewilde (Southsea) said it depended on start times.

Richard Hutchins (Ryde Lawn) said it was dumbing down and wants to play 3 full sets.

Rob Mort (Avenue) said that if 3 rubbers have been played and the match has been decided then whichever system could be played with mutual agreement as it won't matter.

Michael Isaacs suggested that you could decide on the format before the match starts and if both sides are in agreement. Tim Clark (Canoe Lake) and James Cooney (Ryde Lawn) both agreed that this causes conflict before you even start.

A vote was taken to change from 3 full sets to 3rd set championship tie break
Support – 5, Against – 11, Abstain – 1

Outcome: The 3 full sets stay. However, can change to tie break if both teams agree in and in certain circumstances such as poor weather or time constraints.

11. High Ranking Players Playing Down at Start of a Season

Alan Best said that he keeps comprehensive notes on all players in every match. He could only pinpoint 4 times where this had happened and it doesn't happen as often as people think but if people have any queries then they can ask him to investigate.

There was a situation where the lower division teams in a club played their fixtures early in the season to get easy points before their good players got tied to a higher team. This doesn't seem to be a problem now.

Barbara Wilkie said there was a complaint last year and the match had to be replayed and there was one match which was void. She said that clubs should be aware that the players

are being monitored and that if there is a valid reason, such as recovering from injury, then a note should be written on the scorecard.

Andy Gilliat (Avenue) said it was done more out of trying to field a team instead of trying to win.

12. Encourage One Pair/Other Ways to Make a match – Clarify Scoring

If a club can't get 2 pairs they can still play one pair and if they win both rubbers they get one point. This has happened and it has worked.

There was a question regards being a man down for a mixed match and whether another lady could play instead. Michael said yes but the 2 rubbers wouldn't count.

To clarify – Can do as above or ask the opposition if they have a player they could lend you to make up the 4 rubbers but those 2 effected rubbers will not count. Michael asked that clubs consider this instead of cancelling the match.

13. Solent Cup/ Awards Presentation Evening

The Solent Cup will be on Saturday 14th April at Canoe Lake Tennis Club.

The Presentation Evening will be Thursday 18th October at Lee-on-Solent Tennis Club.

The Southsea Trophy Cup will be 26th-29th June hosted again by Canoe Lake. Tickets are £5 for a ground pass and £10 for a stand ticket.

14. Catering Cup

Michael said it had been introduced as a bit of fun but maybe it had run its course. He said he thought that the match tea was an important part of the day and makes the leagues friendly and a nice experience. However, some teams feel under pressure and some clubs have their own caterers.

Carrie Bateman (Ryde Lawn) said that the match tea was part of the day out and it was good to make an effort especially for the IOW clubs who come a long way.

A vote was taken to continue it or not:

Continue – 6, Stop – 6, Abstain – 3

As the vote was a tie Barbara held the casting vote and voted to dispense with it as she also felt it put pressure on clubs.

15. New LTA Regulations

The LTA have done an audit of all clubs with regards their safeguarding procedures.

Hampshire has 61 clubs with no safeguarding officer. They have said that every club must have a designated safeguarding officer in place by October this year and that that person

should not be a coach. If this is not adhered to then the club will not be LTA registered which will have insurance issues and more.

Barbara said there are courses for £30 that you can sign up for online and due to the new guidelines places will be limited as there are not enough courses for the numbers affected. She also informed everyone that the safeguarding courses used to be called child protection.

16. Election of Officers

All committee members were happy to continue.

Proposer – Tim Clark (Canoe Lake)

Seconder – Dawn Dewilde (Southsea)

Outcome - All in favour

17. AOB

Barbara said please feel free to email Michael with any issues or points that need raising.

Alan Best said that when he was at an LTA meeting last year there was an issue brought up about Wimbledon tickets that were confiscated as the holders couldn't say where they originated from. The holder should be able to say what club they came from and the person.

18. Meeting closed at 9.05pm