

Portsmouth & District AGM 2024

Venue: Avenue Tennis Club

Date: Thursday 9th March 2024

Minutes

Attendees:

In person: Michael Isaacs (Warsash, Chair and District League Secretary), Suzanna Troy (Chichester, Acting Secretary), Karen Downie (Warsash, Committee Member), Florence Gimonet (Warsash, Committee Member), Clare Keiditsch (CourtX, Committee Member), Paul Whittenham (Avenue, Committee Member), Barbara Wilkie (Lee, Committee Member) Chris and Stuart Doherty (Swanmore), Dawn Dewilde (CourtX and Southsea), Helen Shelton (Southsea), Rob Moore, Phil Sowden (Fishbourne), Ivor and Claire Marsden (Steep), Caroline MacDowell, (Seacourt), Gwen Isaacs, Steph Martin and Paul Martin (Abshot/Carlton Green), Maureen Parker (Stubbington), Pepe Chisenga (Denmead), Sarah Gray (Warsash), Nigel Marks (Chichester), Sarah Pearse (Lee), Mark Goodridge (DL West End), Graham Wallis (Wellow), Roger Castle (Rowlands Castle)

Via virtual link: Linda Jones (Ventnor), Emma Wheeler (Ryde Lawn), Robert Andrews (Ryde Mead)

1. Chairman's Welcome

Michael Isaacs thanked those attending the meeting. He announced that several new members have joined the Committee which has relieved the pressure on existing members particularly himself and Alan Best as they have taken on many of the roles shared by Michael and Alan in the past. He reported

that, happily, the P&D leagues are continuing to flourish with entries continuing to rise and Summer '24 the highest number of team entries to date.

2. Apologies for absence

Sue Foott (Chichester, Committee Member), Carrie Bateman (Ryde Lawn, Committee Member), Alan Best (Rowlands Castle, Treasurer), Ann Clark (Southsea), Julie Gray (Steep), Kate Guyver (CourtX), Robin Ellison (CourtX)

3. 2023 Minutes

Agreed

Matters Arising from 2023 Minutes

None

4. P&D Committee members/ Election of Officers

Michael thanked Paula Fuge (Ladies League Secretary) and Lois Nash (Committee Secretary) who are both stepping down from The Committee after serving for many years.

Michael proposed a new committee comprising of 10 members with the following responsibilities/roles:

Michael Isaacs: Chair

Alan Best: Treasurer

Barbara Wilkie Events:

Carrie Bateman: Isle of Wight Representative:

Clare Keiditsch: Ladies League Secretary

Florence Gimonet: Men's League Secretary & Fixtures Secretary

Sue Foott: Mixed League Secretary

Paul Whittenham: Mixed Masters League Secretary & Deputy Fixtures Secretary

Suzanna Troy: Men's and Ladies Masters League Secretary

Karen Downie: Committee Member without portfolio

Members were asked to vote on the new structure and officers. The motion was agreed unanimously with a show of hands.

5. Treasurers Report

In his absence, Alan Best sent a report containing an overview of the accounts and some recommendations.

He recommended the league entry costs for Summer 2024 and Winter 2024/35 remain at the current level of £6 per team with no increase in the affiliation fees.

He reported that Florence Gimonet has taken over the compilation of fixture and seems to be doing a superb job so Alan has recommended that website development in this area is put on hold for the moment and revisited if needed in the future

The recommendations were agreed unanimously with a show of hands.

6. League Secretary Reports

Those League Secretaries who were present at the meeting each gave a brief report on the current status of their 2024 Winter League. Michael Isaacs read a written report submitted by Sue Foott (Mixed League Secretary).

7. Solent Cup

The Solent Cup is taking place on 13th April 24 at Totton & Eling TC.

The P&D will be represented by Warsash in the Men's cup competition and Lee on Solent in the Ladies cup competition. The opposing teams to be confirmed as the Hampshire leagues are still in progress.

8. Summer Leagues

Addressed in Secretary's reports

9. League administration

a) Rule 9. Rearrangement

A rewrite as presented by Michael Isaacs was agreed with clarification of 'requestee' added.

Clubs to be asked to leave September and March free when agreeing early season rearrangements to leave these months available for necessary last minute mid season rearrangements.

b) Rule 13(b) – Playing up

At the last AGM the rules were changed to allow teams to play up twice (formally once) in a season before being team tied. It was explained that this change was implemented to help small clubs manage injuries but some clubs have complained that this has been abused by a few clubs who appear to have deliberately strengthened teams for late season fixtures.

It was agreed that fixture secretaries would monitor the situation in both the masters and weekend leagues and will intervene if there is a concern. Monitoring will include checking for players who are playing down having played in a higher team and also players who playing for the first time but are inappropriately strong for the division that they are playing in.

This will be revisited at the AGM if it is still deemed to be an issue.

c) Rule 18. Spirit of the Competition

Those present were asked to remind their clubs to pay regard to this ruling.

d) Scorecards

League secretaries have politely requested that teams to bear in mind the following:

- Scorecards to be legible with names in full and not just initials.
- Scorecards to be emailed or sent by whatsapp as soon as possible ideally immediately following the match.
- It is not necessary for each club to complete and submit a score card to the relevant league secretary. One scorecard from the match, as long as it is signed by both captains is sufficient. Clubs are welcome to complete a second score card should they wish to.

The layout of the score card was discussed as there has been some confusion about how it should be filled in. It was agreed that the existing layout should be retained however where a tie break has been played teams should put the tie break result beside the game score for the tie break

Eg 0 1 (10-6)

The score card format will be revisited at the next AGM once the recording of tie break scores has been established.

e) Postponements

If games are postponed for any reason please inform the league secretary asap of the postponement and then of the new date once one has been agreed.

f) Any Other Issues

A request was received for the men and ladies matches to be scheduled on different days to the mixed matches for any one club.

Michael Isaacs explained large clubs have many teams (eg Avenue has 12 teams) therefore this request is impossible

to accommodate. However, fixture secretaries are given at least one month before each season during which they can rearrange fixtures with no detriment so smaller clubs with limited courts are welcome to reorganize their own fixtures as necessary.

Sarah Pearse from Lee On Solent warned those present, apologizing in advance, that the Lee-On-Solent floodlights need to be repaired and that this may result in some late fixture changes.

10. Website Development

Michael Isaacs thanked Robin Ellison who has taken over writing the Portsmouth News articles and is doing a fantastic job.

It was agreed to develop the website to make provision for the Portsmouth News article to be published each week, as The News have given their sanction.

Robin receives a copy of all the score cards. He would be very grateful if any clubs who have anything noteworthy concerning their matches could make a note at the bottom of the scorecard and he will include it in the report.

11. LTA Registration

Michael reported that the P&D league will shortly be registered as an LTA affiliated league.

12. Over 60's Ladder

Graham Wallace from Wellow informed those present that there a number of over 65/70 men at Wellow who would like to play some sociable tennis against men from another club. Please can anyone who has members in their club who might be interested, give them Graeme's contact details which are available in the contact list of Club Fixture Secretaries.

13. Awards Presentation Evening

Michael commented on the very successful awards evening but reported that the maximum number for the room in which the awards have been held (100) was exceeded on the night and noted that either numbers will need to be restricted in future or the format will need to be changed. Anyone with suggestions for how this could be managed was asked to contact a committee member.

Barbara Wilkie asked people to make sure that trophies are returned promptly once the request for return is made.

14. AOB

None

The meeting closed at 9.20pm