

PORTSMOUTH & DISTRICT AGM

Avenue Lawn Tennis Club, 6 March 2025

Minutes**

Attendees:

- In person:

Suzanna Troy (Chichester, Ladies' Masters and Men's Masters League Secretary), Florence Gimonet (Warsash, Men's League Secretary and Fixtures Co-ordinator), Clare Keiditsch (Court X, Ladies' League Secretary), Karen Downie (Warsash, Committee Member), Dawn Dewilde (Southsea and Court X), Kate Guyver (Court X), Adam Tolmie (The Avenue), Maureen Parker (Stubbington), Steph Martin (Abshot), Barbara Wilkie (Lee-on-the-Solent), Ian Wilkie (Lee-on-the-Solent), Gary Waughman (Lee-on-the-Solent), Chris Weatherill (Carlton), Mark Goodridge (David Lloyd West End), Rob Moore (Fishbourne), Rob Mort (The Avenue), Sharon Davies (Seacourt), Caroline McDowell (Seacourt), Samantha Hutchinson (Swanmore), Roger Castle (Rowlands Castle), Maggie Allan (Wickham) and Julie Gray (Steep)

- Via virtual link:

Michael Isaacs (Warsash, Chairman), Graham Wallace (Wellow), Emma Weller (Ryde Lawn), Linda Jones (Ventnor) and Nick Searles (Ryde Mead)

1. Chair's Welcome

Suzanna Troy acted as Chair and welcomed participants to the meeting. She also acknowledged and thanked Dawn Dewilde for recording the minutes.

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Alan Best (Rowlands Castle, Treasurer), Sue Foote (Chichester, Mixed Doubles League Secretary), Paul Whittenham (The Avenue, Mixed Masters League Secretary), Carrie Bateman (Ryde Lawn, Committee Member), Carole Berryman (Denmead), Ann Clark (Southsea), Chris Doherty (Swanmore), Stuart Doherty (Swanmore) and Jon Towse (Bognor)

3. 2024 AGM Minutes – Matters Arising and Adoption

The Minutes were adopted.

Suzanna said that the Committee was keen to welcome new members, particularly from Clubs not yet represented on the Committee. Anyone interested should contact Michael Isaacs.

The existing Committee was re-elected.

4. Treasurer's Report – P&L Account

Suzanna presented the report on behalf of the Treasurer. The recent increase in entry fees had returned the accounts to an even keel. There had been a surplus of just over £200 in 2024 and it was expected to be £800 more in 2025 compared to 2023. This fee increase would make it possible to:

- repair and/or replace some of the older trophies;
- investigate further development of the website (including the possibility of incorporating a link with the LTA for interested players to obtain a World Tennis Number – see point 11 below).

It was felt that the P&D had had a good year and was well placed going forward. It was not intended to make a profit but to keep fees as low as possible.

The Treasurer's report was approved.

5. League Secretaries' Reports

Reports were made by the League Secretaries present on the Winter 2024/25 season. The team captains were thanked for their hard work (and indeed their creativity!). Clare Keiditsch also presented a report on behalf of Paul Whittenham (Mixed Masters).

Samantha Hitchinson (Swanmore) asked if it would be possible to see the names of those who had played matches. Michael Isaacs explained that P&D had decided to develop its own website rather than use the LTA website. This had provided many advantages but did not allow for the names of players to be recorded as this would increase the workload of the League Secretaries considerably. League Secretaries could provide players' names on request.

6. Summer Leagues

Florence Gimonet talked about the scheduling of the summer fixtures and how it had been possible to accommodate +/- 98% of the teams' constraints. Michael Isaacs highlighted some of the complexities involved in compiling the fixtures. He thanked and congratulated Florence for all her efforts. It was felt that it would be easier for individual teams to reorganise fixtures where necessary. Teams have until the end of April to re-arrange summer fixtures (and until the end of October to re-arrange winter fixtures) without question, provided a week's notice is given. Florence asked that home teams consider a later start time, if necessary, when hosting teams from the Isle of Wight.

7. Solent Cup

The 2025 Solent Cup will be held on Saturday 5 April at Warsash. (Reserve: Sunday 6 April).

The league matches to decide which teams will represent P&D will only be completed one week before the Solent Cup is due to be played. Michael will therefore review this coming weekend's relevant match results and then ask the teams still in contention to ensure they have a team available to play on 5 April.

8. LTA/P&D Code of Conduct

Suzanna and Michael reported on the rise in the number of complaints regarding bad behaviour. It was recognised that the majority of people play with respect and a healthy degree of co-operation; however, the minority who do not cast a shadow over the whole league. Clubs are expected to deal with issues in the first instance before escalating the matter to the Committee.

P&D subscribes to and is bound by The LTA Rules and Code of Conduct. These documents are available to see on The LTA website and Suzanna suggested that players and club officials should familiar themselves with the full details contained within The Rules.

9. Rule Changes

A number of proposed changes to the rules had been circulated prior to the meeting and form part of these minutes. These were discussed at length and the background behind the proposed changes was given. The friendly, co-operative nature of the P&D leagues was stressed.

2. LTA Rules - The proposed change to this point was adopted unanimously with the proviso that “should” be changed to “shall”: The LTA Code of Conduct is adopted by The P&D and **shall** be adhered to by everyone

3. Eligibility – The historic 20-mile radius was discussed and it was generally felt that this was an appropriate limit. It was also felt The Committee could use its discretion when considering new members.

It was therefore agreed to accept most of the proposed new wording but not the sentence “Consideration will be given to clubs outside of the 20 mile radius on application.” The agreed new wording would be:

The League shall be open to any club situated within a 20-mile radius of Portsmouth. Clubs must be affiliated to the Portsmouth & District LTA. All participating clubs must be LTA registered venues. Clubs desiring to take part should forward their application to the League Secretary. Acceptance is subject to Committee approval.

4. Entries – The proposed wording was approved.

5. Teams – The proposed wording was approved. Barbara Wilkie suggested clubs read the LTA document on transitioning.

9. Rearrangements – Point (b): the proposed new wording was approved unanimously.

Point (d): the proposed new wording was rejected. It was agreed to retain the original wording for the time being. Members were invited to make proposals for consideration at a later date.

13 (c) It was agreed to postpone the rewriting of this point to the next AGM.

17. Disputes – The proposed wording was approved with the proviso that “should” be changed to “shall” in paragraphs (a) and (b):

- (a) Any complaints or disputes regarding match arrangements or within a match **shall** be raised by the complaining ...
- (b) The P&D adopts and adheres to The LTA Code of Conduct as the guide to the way in which all League related matters **shall** be handled and ...

10. Other League Operational Matters

There were no other League operational matters.

11. LTA District League Registration – World Tennis Number

The World Tennis Number system is intended for players to find other players of a similar skill level. Michael had been liaising with the LTA and an IT specialist to see if it would be possible to create a link between the LTA and the P&D's own bespoke website that would allow players who are interested to log their match scores in order to give them a player ranking. Michael added communication from The LTA has been challenging and The P&D is still awaiting guidance if the link is possible.

12. Wightlink

Concern at the increasing cost of crossings to/from the Isle of Wight was discussed. It was hoped that a further discount could be obtained from Wightlink. Michael suggested avoiding Fridays and school holiday periods as crossings tend to be more expensive at these times. Ian Wilkie suggested finding sponsorship to subsidise ferry journeys. A fundraiser volunteer to approach local businesses would be much appreciated.

13. Awards Presentation Evening

The next Awards Presentation Evening will be held on 23 October 2025.

Michael thanked Barbara Wilkie and Lee-on-Solent Tennis Club for kindly hosting last year's event. It had been a successful evening despite the cap on numbers due to licensing limits.

14. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

15. Close Meeting

The meeting closed at 21.15.

****Subject to approval at the next AGM**