

## PORTSMOUTH & DISTRICT AGM

Avenue Lawn Tennis Club  
Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026

### Minutes\*\*

#### **Attendees**

Sue Foott (Secretary to The League, Committee Member), Florence Gimonet (Committee Member, Warsash), Clare Keidlitsch (Committee Member, CourtX), Suzanna Troy (Committee Member, Chichester), Paul Whittenham (Committee Member, Avenue), Karen Downie (Committee Member, Warsash), Vanessa Prosser (Chichester), Maureen Parker (Stubbington), Sam Hutchinson (Swanmore), Julie Gray (Steep), Robin Ellison (CourtX), Dawn Dewilde (Southsea, CourtX), Ann Clark (Southsea), Linda Swinburn (Southsea), Rob Moore (Fishbourne), Roger Castle (Rowlands Castle), Carole Berryman (Denmead), Paul Martin (Abshot), Chris Weatherill (Carlton Green), Gwen Isaacs (Abshot), Steph Martin (Abshot), Suzanne Peat (DLWE), Kevin Peat (DLWE), Rob Mort (Avenue)

Joined by Video Link

Linda Jones (Ventnor), Emma Wheeler (Ryde Lawn), Graham Wallis (Wellow), James Green (Seacourt)

#### **Chairman's Welcome**

Michael Isaacs thanked those attending the meeting and explained that due to flight delays following a trip abroad he had been unable to prepare for the AGM as he would have liked consequently some of the issues debated were being put before Clubs for the first time.

He also welcomed those attending the meeting by Zoom.

#### **Apologies for absence**

Alan Best Treasurer, Sue North Wickham Tennis Club, Barbara Wilkie Lee Tennis Club

#### **2025 Minutes**

Agreed

#### **Masters Arising from 2025 Minutes**

None

#### **Treasurers Report**

A P&L and cashflow forecast for the next year was circulated separately.

The P&D League is in a healthy position financially although it is anticipated there will be some spend on updating/refurbishing trophies ahead of the annual awards ceremony.

It was recommended that the entry fee for teams be set at £8.00 to cover this and any other work that might be required during the 2026 season.

The Accounts and Entry fee were agreed by the Clubs attending the meeting.

### **League Secretaries Reports**

Each of the League Secretaries provided a brief report on the winter 2025/2026 season. With the exception of Mixed division 1 and ladies division 1 there are outstanding matches in all leagues which will impact on promotion/relegation.

Clubs were urged to play outstanding matches and where appropriate re arrange weather affected matches urgently given the end of season is fast approaching.

### **Summer 2026**

The fixtures list for summer 2026 is now live on the system and Michael thanked Florence who produced it in a way that was fair to all teams having regard to trips to the Isle of Wight and ensuring home and away matches are evenly distributed. All this has been done against the court constraints provided by each Club.

If any Club is obliged to re arrange the majority of their fixtures they are encouraged to contact Florence so she can understand what might have gone wrong so in future this is not an issue.

### **Solent Cup**

This will take place on the weekend of the 11/12 April at Thornden and Warsash Ladies will play either Winchester or Thornden.

CourtX Men will play either Riverside or Salisbury.

Michael encouraged Clubs to support the event.

### **LTA Code of Conduct**

Michael reminded Clubs that the League Committee is run by volunteers who give up time to run the leagues for the enjoyment of all.

This winter there have been a number of incidents on which the League and League Secretaries have been asked to adjudicate. These incidents could have been avoided had Clubs communicated between themselves in a timely and respectful manner.

Some of the incidents occurred on court and some are around re arranged matches

Michael will be writing to all Captains and Clubs reminding them of the need to behave respectfully towards each other. He requested Clubs make all players aware of this requirement.

## Rule Changes

Given these have not been put before Clubs in advance of the meeting it was agreed that some of the votes would be indicative and the recommendations made by the Clubs would be reviewed by the Committee following the AGM.

The Clubs attending the AGM agreed the 20 mile radius rule should remain with additional Clubs being admitted to the league at the Committee discretion.

The Clubs agreed in relation to the ladies masters that the current position on the age of participation should remain unchanged for a further season. Those ladies who have been participating in league although not yet 50 can remain playing and should not be penalized by the rule change.

The Clubs agreed that it was acceptable for players to play for other Clubs in different leagues this applies to mixed matches/masters events.

There was significant debate about teams who concede more than one match. At the moment a point is deducted each time this happens and relegation may follow. Clubs were asked to indicate whether they would prefer an increased sanction. There was no consensus and it was agreed the Committee would review options.

Re arranging matches has caused problems this winter. There is a proposal that after the deadline for re arranging matches has passed in winter and summer there should be no further re arrangement permitted unless for weather. This would be a significant change in the League policy and marks a departure from the flexible approach that has encouraged to date.

A number of the smaller Clubs opposed this as they do not have the pool of players available and on occasions need to request re arrangements at short notice.

The indicative vote was 10 Clubs in favour of only re arranging for weather and 7 against. Chairman agreed to take this back to the Committee to discuss further given there was no clear majority on this point.

There was also discussion about how many dates to offer when re arranging and the timescales for the offer being made and accepted. The Clubs attending the AGM agreed 3 dates should be offered 7 days after the initial match is cancelled and the opponents have 7 days to accept one of those dates. There was a significant majority in favour of this approach.

There was also a discussion around who is responsible for determining whether the match proceeds in the event there are weather concerns. It was agreed responsibility rests with the home team who will need to consider the travelling arrangements that may be required by the away team.

An issue was raised about changing playing surfaces during a match to enable it to be completed in full even if there is a result after the first round of rubbers. Again this will be reviewed by the Committee

Chairman indicated that there would be some strengthening of the rules around the spirit of the competition to include the LTA code of conduct for players to prevent the splitting of points rather than playing matches.

## **Committee Applications**

The Committee remains unchanged for the 2026 season although Michael reported they would like to recruit a representative from a small club and a next generation representative.

It was noted that Robin Ellison had put himself forward to join and that his application would be considered by The Committee in due course.

## **Wightlink**

It is acknowledged that the cost of sailing to and from the island is becoming an issue for Clubs. Michael continues to engage with Wightlink who advise they are re evaluating the current level of support which may make the position worse.

The Committee is open to ideas around sponsorship which would assist in subsidizing the crossing expenses. Michael was going to approach Wightlink again but the Committee will also look at other options

## **Website development /Podcast/Reporting**

There have been some changes to the reporting of league results in The Portsmouth News and Robin has recorded an episode of The Tennis Hampshire Podcast promoting the P&D Leagues.

The AGM formally recorded their appreciation for the work being done by Robin in his regular news reports and on the podcast.

There continues to be interest from a few clubs on having LTA link to the P&D leagues so results can be recorded against player profiles for those who would like this. Michael has tried engaging with the LTA on this point without success but will pick the matter up again and report back.

There was also a suggestion about better links on website to telephone and contact details for Captains.

## **Awards Ceremony**

Further information on the 2026 Ceremony will follow.

Meeting closed at 21.35 pm.

**\*\* To be approved and adopted at next AGM**