



# SWINDON & DISTRICT TENNIS LEAGUE

Minutes of Annual General Meeting, 21st November 2006, at The Red House, Purton

## Present:

Amelia Tester	Chair / Ramsbury	Bill Cook	Minety
Ralph Harding	President /Aldbourn	Janet Wain	Minety
Dale Burr	Treasurer / AK	David Allsop	Nationwide
Richard Vernon	Match Sec / A K	Theresa Allsop	Nationwide
David Lukens	Secretary / WBTC	Matthew Popham	Pewsey
Neil Allen	Committee / Swindon	Caroline McClean	Purton
Roger Henry	Committee/Ramsbury	Malcolm Gayfer	Purton
Penny Clanchy	Sec, Wilts LTA	Alex Scott	Ramsbury
Lesley Ellis	Aldbourn	Peter Willetts	Ramsbury
Louise Crawford	Burbage	Beryl Watts	Swindon
Sophie Crawford	Burbage	Julia Hunt	Life Mem/ W'borough
Duncan Cope	Chiseldon	Dawn Hopkins	Life Mem/ W'borough
Bob Ingham	Devizes	Marcel Lambert	Wootton Bassett
Brenda Martin	Great Bedwyn	Liz Lewis	Wootton Bassett
Bill Wells	Great Bedwyn	Jackie Wood	Wootton Bassett

- 1. Apologies for Absence** were received from Barbara Codd (Nalگو), Geoff Bush (Life Member / Nalگو), Helen Clift (Cricklade), Jon Murray (Lechlade), John Hunt (Life Member), Richard Kimber (Nalگو) & Hilda Moore (Marlborough).
- 2. Minutes of last AGM** were agreed.
- 3. Matters Arising:** None
- 4. Chair's Report** Amelia Tester reported that the season had been successful with few re-arranged matches and a high standard of tennis. Swindon TC had won 9 trophies which she thought was a record.  
Thanks were due to Swindon and Nationwide for hosting an enjoyable presentation evening. In the challenge match against the Chippenham league the men won but the ladies were beaten.  
Amelia thanked the committee members for their work over the year including Bryan Archer who had stepped down.
- 5. Treasurer's Report** Dale Burr reported that the balances were still healthy in spite of the increased cost of engraving and the additional contribution to county mini-tennis. He recommended that the charges were kept the same for 2007.  
The accounts were accepted (prop Roger Henry (Committee/Ramsbury), sec Julia Hunt (Life Member/Wanborough) )
- 6. Match Secretary's report** Richard Vernon reported a record number of teams entered in 2006. The Men's Division 1 title was won with the last point of the season. There were no withdrawals and fewest ever concessions but fines were up on the previous season. There were a few more instances of ineligible players but the new Bank Holiday rules worked well.  
Richard was congratulated on doing a superb job.
- 7. Presentation Evening** Swindon and Nationwide were thanked for organising a very successful evening. Next year Aldbourne and Burbage have offered to co-host..

8. **Announcement of Life Members** Ethel Hutchings (Ramsbury) was offered life membership (prop Amelia Tester, sec, Roger Henry).
9. **Nominations for President** Ralph Harding was nominated by Julia Hunt and seconded by Dawn Hopkins (Life Member/Wanborough). No other nominations were made.
10. **Election of Officers** Bob Ingham (Devizes) volunteered to join the committee. The following were elected en bloc (prop Ralph Harding, sec Alex Scott (Ramsbury))

**Chair:** Amelia Tester, **Secretary:** David Lukens, **Treasurer:** Dale Burr, **Match Secretary:** Richard Vernon, **Committee:** Roger Henry, Bob Ingham & Neil Allen

11. **Inter-league Challenge Match** Devizes TC have offered to host the event next year.
12. **Entry Fees, Club Deposits and Fines** will stay at the same rate for next season. It was clarified that the raffle money is given to the club running the Presentation Evening to buy raffle prizes.
13. **Mini Tennis Donation** Penny Clanchy (Wilts LTA) thanked the league for their donation of £150 this year to Wilts Mini Tennis. It was agreed to give £150 again this year (prop Julia Hunt sec Roger Henry).

14. **Rule Changes**

- a. Dawn Hopkins proposed to abolish Rule 2b:

*A player may not play for more than one team in any one section (Ladies, Men's or Mixed) in any one week as per published fixtures. Penalty as per Rule 2.d.*

on the grounds that it was difficult to administrate and made it harder to get someone to step into a team at the last minute to cover for injury.

Amelia Tester commented that the clubs who played on different evenings would be able to field their stronger players in different teams.

Malcolm Gayfer (Purton) said it would penalise the teams who played on the correct night.

Liz Lewis (Wootton Bassett) commented that, in the case of injury, teams can field ineligible players to allow the match to go ahead and take the penalty.

Motion to abolish Rule 2b (prop Dawn Hopkins, sec Beryl Watts (Life Member /Swindon) defeated 28-2.

- b. Richard Vernon proposed new rule 2g:

*If two teams agree to complete an unfinished match at the return fixture, then any player who plays (legally) in the return fixture will be deemed eligible to play in the extra sets played that day.*

This would avoid the possibility of having to take extra players to a re-arranged match. Prop Richard Vernon, sec Dale Burr, carried unanimously.

- c. Roger Henry handed round document proposing new rule 2i:

*Teams who have floodlights may choose to start matches after 6.30pm but no later than 7.00pm., provided they have informed the league before the season commences.*

Amelia Tester said this would enable junior coaching to continue until 6.30. Roger Henry added that variable start times were working in the Winter League.

Malcolm Gayfer preferred having the same day and start time for all matches.

Bob Ingham said this proposal had the backing of Devizes TC. They had been starting later last season and no visiting team had objected.  
Louise Crawford (Burbage) said the additional 15 minutes would be very important for the juniors.

Richard Vernon pointed out that if the latest start time was 7.00, under the current rules matches may not start until 7.15.

Amendment to the motion was proposed by Malcolm Gayfer, sec Liz Lewis (Wootton Bassett) to read *after 6.30pm but no later than 6.45pm*. It was agreed to amend the motion (1 against).

After considerable discussion on the correct procedure, a vote was taken on the amended motion:

*Teams who have floodlights may choose to start matches after 6.30pm but no later than 6.45 pm., provided they have informed the league before the season commences.*

The motion (prop Roger Henry, Amelia Tester sec) was carried (2 against).

15. **Public Liability Insurance** Amelia Tester said that small clubs who were not affiliated to the LTA should arrange their own Public Liability Insurance.
16. **Winter League** Roger Henry reported that we had more teams than ever before and the league was going well so far. He would send reports to the local papers.
17. **Any Other Business** Julia Hunt thanked the committee for including Life Members in the mail outs.

Meeting closed at 8.50pm

**David Lukens – League Secretary**