



SWINDON & DISTRICT TENNIS LEAGUE

Minutes of Annual General Meeting, 20th November 2007, at The Bell, Ramsbury

Present:

Amelia Tester	Chair / Ramsbury	Maureen Cliff	Lechlade
Ralph Harding	President /Aldbourne	John Watkins	Lechlade
Dale Burr	Treasurer / AK	Ruth Jenner	Minety
Richard Vernon	Match Sec / A K	Judith Jackson	Minety
David Lukens	Secretary / WBTC	Geoff Bush	Life Mem/ NALGO
Neil Allen	Committee / Swindon	David Allsop	Nationwide
Roger Henry	Committee/Ramsbury	Theresa Allsop	Nationwide
Penny Clanchy	Sec, Wilts LTA	S Rose	Purton
Kate Harding	Aldbourne	Malcolm Gayfer	Purton
A Gordon	Burbage	Ethel Hutchings	Life Mem/ Ramsbury
R McGowan	Burbage	Alex Scott	Ramsbury
D Morris	Burbage	Peter Willetts	Ramsbury
Julie Porte	Chiseldon	N Sewell	Swindon
Penny Croutear	Devizes	P Casey	Swindon
Hans Monahan	Devizes	Dawn Hopkins	Life Mem/ W'borough
Brenda Martin	Great Bedwyn	P Bicknell	Wanborough
Bill Wells	Great Bedwyn	Martin Turnbull	Wootton Bassett
		Jackie Wood	Wootton Bassett

1. **Apologies for Absence** were received from Helen Clift (Cricklade), John & Julia Hunt (Life Members), Hilda Moore (Marlborough), Mary Swadling (Aldbourne) & Bob Ingham (Devizes).
2. **Minutes of last AGM** were agreed.
3. **Matters Arising:** None
4. **Chair's Report** Amelia Tester reported that the league was going from strength to strength with 2 new divisions in the summer and one in the Winter. In the pre-season challenge match the Men had lost to the Chippenham League while the Ladies had won. She thanked Aldbourne and Burbage for organising this year's Presentation Evening and all the committee for their work over the year..
5. **Treasurer's Report** Dale Burr reported that we had broken even for the year but the balances were still healthy with more than £1200 in the bank. The accounts were accepted (prop Roger Henry (Committee/Ramsbury), sec David Morris (Burbage)).
6. **Match Secretary's report** Richard Vernon reported another record number of teams entered in 2007. There had been only one withdrawal during the season. Ramsbury won the Men's top division and Swindon won the Ladies. Swindon again were the most successful club with 5 titles. Only 9 matches were conceded and there was an average number of fines – 23. He had sent reports regularly to the papers but there had not been a good take up. Malcolm Gayfer (Purton) offered to speak to people at the Advertiser.
7. **Presentation Evening** Aldbourne and Burbage were co-hosting this years event. Tickets had sold well. Purton offered to host next year's.

8. **Announcement of Life Members** There were no nominations
9. **Nominations for President** Ralph Harding was nominated by Amelia Tester (Chair) and seconded by Richard Vernon (Match Sec). No other nominations were made and Ralph was elected unopposed.
10. **Election of Officers** Bob Ingham (Devizes) (prop Roger Henry (Committee), sec Theresa Allsop (Nationwide)) was elected League Secretary. The following were elected en bloc (prop Theresa Allsop (Nationwide) sec David Morris (Burbage)):

Chair: Amelia Tester, Secretary: Bob Ingham, Treasurer: Dale Burr, Match Secretary: Richard Vernon, Committee: Roger Henry, David Lukens & Neil Allen
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11. **Inter-league Challenge Match** Amelia Tester will organise this with Chippenham league.
12. **Entry Fees, Club Deposits and Fines** Dale Burr (Treasurer) proposed that these stay the same for next season. Roger Henry proposed that the Entry Fee was raised to £2 to match the Winter League. This proposal (prop Ethel Hutchings (Life Member), sec Dawn Hopkins (Life Member)) was passed unanimously.
13. **Mini Tennis Donation** It was decided to raise the amount given to help Wilts LTA with the extra tournaments they were running. It was agreed to give £250 this year (prop Ethel Hutchings (Life Member), sec Dawn Hopkins (Life Member)).
14. **Rule Changes**
- a. Amelia Tester (Chair) proposed an addition to Rule 1:
- The League will consider entries from all LTA affiliated Tennis clubs and non-LTA affiliated clubs provided they supply evidence to the League of valid public liability insurance covering accidents at their courts; for example, a copy of the insurance certificate, or the insurance company name & policy number.*
- Amelia explained that it was necessary for all clubs to have this insurance in case of personal injury and the league had been advised that it should minimise its own liability by verifying clubs' insurance. The change was carried unanimously.
- b. Amelia Tester (Chair) proposed an amendment to Rule 1 i:
- Teams who have floodlights available until at least 9.30 pm may choose to start matches after 6.30pm but no later than 6.45pm provided they have informed the league before the season commences.*
- This amendment was necessary as there was unlikely to be enough time to finish matches if lights went out at 9.00. There was some discussion about whether this should be extended to 10.00pm or whether we should revert to the old rule of everyone starting at 6.30. The rule change was carried 24-4.
15. **Winter League** Roger Henry reported that we had 5 divisions this year. He was bringing the rules into line with the summer league and this should be complete by next season. Malcolm Gayfer (Purton) asked why clubs were not entering the league in the bottom division. Roger confirmed that this was at the discretion of the committee.
16. **Web Site** David Lukens reported that the designer who had done a web-site for Wootton Bassett TC had offered to do a basic site for the League for £200. Purchase of a domain name and hosting space would bring this up to about £250. The

advantages would be that we could post news, results, tables etc as an addition to the e-mail service. There was some discussion of other possibilities, such as on-line recording of results. Agreed that we would look at sites which do this sort of thing but it was felt that we should start with a basic version and see how it went.

The proposal that we should spend up to £250 on a web-site was carried with 3 against.

17. Any Other Business

Theresa Allsop (Nationwide) asked about the LTA's new British Tennis membership scheme. Roger Henry gave a succinct explanation of the scheme.

Jackie Wood (WBTC) pointed out that the rule regarding late starts should specify when the league was to be notified. This was recognised as an important point and the proposal that the words *provided they have informed the league before the season commences* should be changed to *provided they have informed the league at the time of entry* (prop Malcolm Gayfer (Purton) sec Roger Henry (Committee)) was passed unanimously.

Ethel Hutchings (Life Member) thanked the committee for their work over the year.

Meeting closed at 8.51pm

David Lukens – League Secretary