



# SWINDON & DISTRICT TENNIS LEAGUE

## Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 27 November 2018 at 1900

Venue: Gerard Buxton Sports Ground, Brinkworth Rd, Royal Wootton Bassett, SN4 8DS

Committee		Clubs represented	
Neil Allen (NA)	Chair - Swindon	Fairford	Richard Harrison, Cathy Sayers
Jackie Wood (JW)	League Coordinator - R Wootton Bassett	Great Bedwyn	Bill Wells; Rachel Bond
Lindsey Hall	Treasurer - Purton	Lechlade	Gay Oliver, Bob Deane
Andy Dickinson (AD)	League Coordinator - Minety		
Charlie Foster	Committee Member – David Lloyd	PAKT	P Mazzota, T Karpinsk
Louise Crawford	Secretary - Burbage /Purton	Pewsey	Keith Hampson
		Purton	(L Hall/L Crawford)
Clubs represented		Ramsbury	Amelia Tester
Aldbourn	Simon Hutchings	Swindon	Richard Hughes, Beryl Watts
Burbage &ER	Andrew Gordon, Ros McGowan	Royal Wootton Bassett	David Lukens, Liz Lewis, Steve Paul
Chiseldon	Sara Brazell, Rachel Whatley	Uffington	Juliet Moss, Annabel Campbell
Defence Academy	Richard Tudor	Wanborough	Joy Buckby

	Item	Main action/discussion points	Action by:
1.	<b>Apologies/ Attendance</b>	<p><b>Apologies for Absence</b> were received from: Steve Williams – Committee Member/Nationwide TC, Matt Eagle, Cricklade TC (no longer participating in the League)</p> <p><b>Clubs not represented at this AGM: (Total: 8) Ashton Keynes, Calne, Chippenham, CS &amp; Nalgo, Devizes, Highworth, Marlborough, Nationwide.</b></p> <p>League admin to ensure £5 fees are collected from clubs not represented at AGM via 2019 Summer League entry forms or direct if not participating in League.</p>	AD/ JW
2.	<b>Minutes of last AGM/ Matters arising</b>	No queries. The Minutes were agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting.	
3.	<b>Chair's Report</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NA said that there had been no major issues arising for the Committee to consider and he paid thanks to Andy, Jackie and Richard Vernon for their contributions in managing the Summer and Winter League so well. (Richard does the Sort for both Leagues)</li> <li>NA also thanked Great Bedwyn for hosting a very enjoyable Presentation Evening at Marlborough Golf Club on 16 November. It was disappointing though that there had been as many as 3 trophies not collected. The clubs who didn't collect their trophies at the Presentation were: Ashton Keynes, Chippenham and David Lloyd.</li> </ul>	
4.	<b>League Report</b>	JW gave a summary of the Winter and Summer seasons. Last Winter, there were 42 teams over 6 divisions, with 2 teams being expunged. The number of teams entered in the Leagues fell slightly when comparing year on year entries, with 2 teams withdrawing from the Summer League. Overall, the number of ineligible	

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		players was the same as the previous season, and fines were the same ie £142. Of these, there were 5 fines for late arrangement of matches.	
5.	<b>Treasurer's Report</b>	Lindsey Hall presented the Report. Expenditure was higher than in previous years due to 2 factors: a) 2 years' engravings had been paid for in the same year, that is the 2017 and also the 2018 ones had already been paid, whereas historically they had been paid later on; b) website fees are due every two years, and this season, they were due to be paid. The accounts were unanimously accepted. <b>Proposed:</b> Amelia Tester; <b>Seconded:</b> David Lukens	
6.	<b>Election of Officers</b>	All existing Committee members were prepared to serve a further term, except for LC, who resigned as Secretary. She agreed to continue in a provisional capacity, given that there were no nominations to take over the role. <b>Proposed:</b> Andrew Gordon; <b>Seconded:</b> Simon Hutchings	
7.	<b>Nominations for Life Members</b>	NA proposed the nomination of Ethel Hutchings as President. Previously Dawn Hopkins had been President, but passed away last year. The nomination was unanimously approved. <b>Proposed: Amelia Tester Seconded: Joy Buckby</b>	
8.	<b>Annual Presentation Evening</b>	See Item 3). Great Bedwyn advised that the raffle proceeds would be donated to Children in Need.	
9.	<b>Entry Fees, Club Deposits &amp; Fines for 2018 season</b>	The fines were presented by JW. It was agreed that entry fees should remain the same as last year.	
10.	<b>County Mini-tennis Donation/Other Funding</b>	It was agreed to make a donation of £200 again to the Wilts LTA 10 & Under campaign <b>Proposed:</b> Liz Lewis; <b>Seconded:</b> Simon Hutchings	
11.	<b>Proposed Rule Changes - from Pewsey TC</b>	<p><b>Proposals received from Pewsey TC (motions in order of importance a/c to Pewsey TC) See Voting Results in Green below. Proposed rules/changes can only be carried if a majority of two thirds of voting members present vote for the change.</b></p> <p>Proposed by: Keith Hampson (Pewsey match secretary) Seconded by: members of the Pewsey TC Committee</p> <p><b>Motion 1 – BANK HOLIDAYS NOT CARRIED. FOR – 11; AGAINST 12</b> <b>Amendment to rule 5b - It is proposed that the facility to postpone men's summer league matches falling on a bank holiday Monday to the first weeks of August, be withdrawn.</b></p> <p>Rationale: a) Early August is probably a more difficult time to field teams than earlier in the season, due to holidays and injuries. b) The facility is not available to Ladies or Mixed teams for the weeks concerned. c) Many teams are able to play on bank holiday Mondays and postponing matches early on in the season represents an untidy and frustrating start to the season for many.</p> <p><b>Motion 2 – POSTPONING SAME CLUB MATCHES CARRIED BUT ONLY WITH THE AMENDMENT BEING "WITHIN 2 WEEKS" (CURRENTLY 1 WEEK) – FOR - 27</b> <b>Amendment to rule 5e - It is proposed that cancelled matches between teams from the same club, must be played within 4 weeks after that date. Otherwise, one point will be awarded to each team.</b> Rationale: the current time limit of one week represents an overly challenging</p>	

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	<p>target as many clubs will be hosting men’s, ladies, mixed, social and coaching sessions throughout the week. In non same club instances, completion by the end of the season is the rule; applying this full latitude to same club teams, may however provide an opportunity to manipulate the division outcome.</p> <p><b><u>Motion 3 – RESTRICT THE NUMBER OF SAME CLUB TEAMS IN A DIVISION. CARRIED. FOR 21, AGAINST 3, BUT WITH THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENT IN GREEN. This is already done by the Committee, but it was agreed to formalise this in the form of a rule.</u></b></p> <p><b>New rule for section 1. The number of teams in a division from the same club will be limited to a maximum of two. . The number of teams in a division from the same club SHOULD, WHEREVER POSSIBLE be limited to a maximum of two.</b></p> <p>Rationale: Having multiple teams in a division makes a significant manipulation of the division outcome possible. Travelling to away matches gets tedious when trips are to the same club.</p> <p>ISSUE – there may not be a practical way to implement this motion.</p> <p><b><u>Motion 4 – PLACEMENT OF NEW TEAMS IN THE LEAGUES – CARRIED. ALL UNANIMOUSLY IN FAVOUR BUT WITH THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENT IN GREEN</u></b></p> <p><b>New rule for section 1. Summer and Winter Leagues will endeavour to place new teams in the most appropriate division, they will not automatically be defaulted into the lowest division. Wherever possible, the Committee will endeavour to place new teams in the most appropriate division.</b></p> <p>Rationale: assigning strong new teams to a low division makes the tennis less enjoyable for all concerned.</p> <hr/> <p><b><u>Motion 5 – SHORTER SUMMER SEASON NOT CARRIED. F-3, AGAINST 21</u></b></p> <p><b>The Summer League will, a) limit the number of teams in a division to 6, or b) increase the number of teams to 11 and remove return matches. Ether option will result in a maximum of 10 matches being played in the season. This action is accommodated under existing rule 1a.</b></p> <p>Rationale: the summer league season often extends into August due to match postponements and it is often the case that clubs cannot field teams in August due to leave or injury issues. Conceding matches is common, as is fielding one pair, all of which detracts from running meaningful competitive divisions.</p> <hr/> <p><b><u>Motion 6 – SPLIT WINTER LEAGUES NOT CARRIED. ALL UNANIMOUSLY AGAINST THIS</u></b></p> <p><b>The Winter League will split the overall district and operate as three separate Mixed Leagues – North, West and South. Clubs would be free to enter teams into their preferred league. This action is accommodated under existing Rule 1a.</b></p> <p>Possible groupings for consideration by members:  North – Uffington, Minety, Purton, Lechlade, Highwoth, Fairford, David Lloyd.  West – Chippenham, Calne, Devizes, R W Bassett, Swindon, Nationwide, CS &amp; Nalgo  South – Wanborough, Chiseldon, Marlborough, Ramsbury, Pewsey, Burbage, Great Bedwyn.</p> <p>Rationale: it can take a good hour to travel from the southern most clubs in the</p>	

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	<p>SDDL to the Northern most clubs, and vice versa. Enthusiasm for playing these matches is often muted and captains can face difficulties putting together teams. Shorter travel times would help maintain or generate greater interest in winter league play.</p> <p><b><u>Motion 7 – WINTER LEAGUE MATCH DAYS NOT CARRIED. F-1, AGAINST 23</u></b></p> <p><b>Revision to rule 3b. Move to follow rule 3c and replace with – Winter League matches should be played on Thursday evenings under floodlights, with timings as in rule 3c above. Clubs may also, or alternatively, play in a separate weekend league in which teams can nominate the home day and start time for matches.</b></p> <p>Rationale: the existing winter league sees matches being hosted by clubs on a variety of evenings, or weekend days, allowing for the absence of floodlights. The weekly inconsistency in match days together with weekend matches, makes it difficult for clubs to field consistent and committed teams. Regular match evenings would help to foster greater interest in Winter league play.</p>	
<p><b>Proposed Rule Changes - from the Committee following on from last year's AGM</b></p>	<p><b><u>MOTION 8 – PLAYER ELIGIBILITY (PLAYING FOR MULTIPLE TEAMS). NOT CARRIED. F-11, AGAINST 11</u></b></p> <p><b>A player may play for no more than two of a club's adjacent teams in each of the Leagues i.e. Men's, Ladies, Mixed and Winter. For example a player can play for 'A&amp;B, B&amp;C but not A&amp;C'.</b></p> <p>Rationale: Stronger players should not be allowed to influence the standing of lower ranked teams.</p> <p><b><u>MOTION 9 – PROOF OF PLAYER ELIGIBILITY. CARRIED – ALL UNANIMOUSLY IN FAVOUR</u></b></p> <p><b>A club involved in a player membership eligibility dispute shall provide a letter from the Chairman or Membership Secretary to the League Administrators to certify the player's membership category and status, therefore confirming their eligibility to play.</b></p> <p>Rationale: Where a player eligibility dispute exists the suspected club should provide evidence of bona fide membership.</p> <p><b><u>MOTION 10 – PLAYER ELIGIBILITY (END OF SEASON NEW PLAYERS). NOT CARRIED. F-3, AGAINST 21</u></b></p> <p><b>No new player may play for a team in a fixture that is played after week 11 of the season. For the avoidance of doubt, this shall include rearranged matches played after week 11. A "New Player" is a person that has not played in a match up to and including week 11 of the season in progress, regardless of whether they have previously been registered on the LTA Tournament Software.</b></p> <p><b>A team that is found to have played a New Player will be fined 4 points and the opposing team awarded a walkover.</b></p> <p>Rationale: To ensure that final league positions are not influenced by newly drafted club members.</p> <p><b><u>MOTION 11 – PLAYER ELIGIBILITY (CLUB MEMBERSHIP). CARRIED. F-19, AGAINST-2, ABSTAINED-3</u></b></p> <p><b>Any player participating in the League must be a full member of the club he or she is representing. Full membership is defined as a player that has one of the following membership categories or similarly defined by the club: Life, Family, Senior, Student, Junior, Honorary, Senior Citizen, Country (resident over 50</b></p>	

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	<p>miles from Swindon town centre) members, or a Coach at the club. Rationale: To provide definition to what is a full and bona fide member.</p> <p><b><u>MOTION 12 – DIVISION ONE NOMINATED PLAYERS.</u></b> <b><u>NOT CARRIED. FOR &amp; AGAINST EQUAL.</u></b></p> <p>Before a teams first match in Division One of each event in the Winter and Summer League they must nominate at least four players "Nominated Players". In the case of mixed events this should include at least two men and two ladies. Clubs failing to comply with this requirement will automatically be regarding as fielding their nominated players in the first match. <b>No Nominated Player may play for a lower ranked team.</b> Rationale: to limit the influence of the best players in the league on lower ranked divisions.</p> <p><b><u>MOTION 13 – LEAGUE INTEGRITY. CARRIED. ALL UNANIMOUSLY IN FAVOUR.</u></b></p> <p>To maintain the integrity of the divisional structure of the league by ability levels, clubs shall select their teams appropriately from players that are eligible. The use of 'occasional' players to influence the results of a specific fixture shall be actively discouraged and the Committee shall have the power to decide player eligibility in such circumstances, where the occasional player does not play in the top team, either in advance or retrospectively, and to take whatever action is deemed necessary. Rationale: to permit the League Committee the ability to preside over player eligibility disputes raised by clubs.</p> <p><b><u>MOTION 14 – CONSTITUTION - EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING. CARRIED. ALL UNANIMOUSLY IN FAVOUR</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rules may only be altered at the AGM or at an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM).</li> <li>• An EGM must be requested either by the Committee or by a minimum of 30% of Tennis Clubs involved in the League.</li> <li>• All members of participating Clubs are entitled to attend the AGM and EGM, but only two members of each Club may vote. In addition, League Officials have one vote. One person may have only one vote in any capacity.</li> <li>• Any proposed alteration to the rules shall be sent in writing, proposed and seconded, to the Secretary at least 28 days prior to the AGM and at least 14 days prior to an EGM. Rule changes shall only be passed if a majority of two thirds of voting members present agree.</li> </ul> <p>Rationale: From time to time it may be necessary for the committee to meet with clubs or visa versa to discuss urgent constitutional matters or rule changes.</p>	
AOB	None	