



# SWINDON & DISTRICT TENNIS LEAGUE

## Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 26 November 2019 at 1900

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

Committee		Clubs Represented	
Neil Allen	Chair – Swindon	Defence Academy	Richard Tudor
Jackie Wood	League Administrator – R Wootton Bassett	Faringdon	Adrian Noke
Lindsey Hall	Treasurer – Purton	Lechlade	Jon Murray
Charlie Foster	Committee Member – Down Ampney	PAKT	Pasquale Mazzotta
Steve Williams	Committee Member – Nationwide	Pewsey	Keith Hampson
Clubs Represented		Purton	Janet Saunders, Michelle Hay
Albourne	Simon Hutchings	R Wootton Bassett	David Lukens
Burbage & ER	Andrew Gordon, Ros McGowan	Swindon	Beryl Watts, Andrew Curran
Calne	Jackie Barnett	Uffington	Annabel Campbell, Anne Hollingworth
Chiseldon	Julie Porte, Charlotte Phelps	Wanborough	Gordon Heywood
CS & Nalگو	Jane Halstead		

	Item	Main action/discussion points	Action by:
1.	<b>Apologies/ Attendance</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> were received from: David & Jenny Langton Ramsbury, Bill Wells Great Bedwyn, Andy Dickinson Minety, Robert Tapsfield Shrivenham <b>Clubs not represented at this AGM: (Total: 9) Ashton Keynes, Chippenham, David Lloyd, Devizes, Great Bedwyn, Highworth, Marlborough, Minety, Ramsbury.</b> 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.	<b>AD/ JW</b>
2.	<b>Minutes of last AGM/ Matters arising</b>	The Minutes were agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting. No matters arising.	
3.	<b>Chair's Report</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NA said that there had been only one incident referred to the committee. This was an injury during a match at CS&amp;Nalگو. Play at the courts was suspended and they were inspected by the committee. A lot of action had been taken to improve the courts which were then pronounced playable.</li> <li>The Presentation Evening had not been held although Marlborough had offered to host it but the dates had clashed so Neil apologised for this.</li> <li>NA thanked all of the committee for their support over the last year especially JW &amp; AD for their work on the league, Lou as ex-Secretary and thanks to Richard Vernon for volunteering to do the league "sorts"</li> <li>Janet Saunders (Purton) asked that it be noted that no acknowledgement had been given to emails re the Nalگو incident – The LTA is involved and there has been no response yet.</li> </ul>	

	Item	Main action/discussion points	Action by:
4.	<b>League Report</b>	JW gave a summary of the Winter and Summer seasons – see attached report. Clubs were reminded to keep an eye out for emails generated through the tournament software which could go to spam or junk mail. Please ignore the comment that the emails are not monitored – they are!	<b>ALL CLUBS</b>
5.	<b>Treasurer's Report</b>	Lindsey Hall presented the Report. (Copy attached) Expenditure was down this year as there were two engravings in last year. Also, no funds had been distributed towards the Presentation Raffle so there will be two of these in next years' accounts. The result was an excess of income over expenditure of £323.47 The accounts were unanimously accepted. <b>Proposed:</b> S Hutchings; <b>Seconded:</b> P Mazzotta	
6.	<b>Election of Officers</b>	Neil is standing down as Chairman, but as no nominations came forward, will temporarily cover the role until a new Chair is found. We still have no Secretary but Janet Saunders offered to come onto the committee to see what this entailed. The remaining Committee members were prepared to serve a further term. All clubs to consider putting forward a candidate for the Chair.	<b>ALL CLUBS</b>
7.	<b>Nominations for Life Members</b>	No nominations	
8.	<b>Annual Presentation Evening</b>	Purton are willing to host an informal evening with buffet and quiz, at The Red House Purton on 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2020. No further details yet as they will decide all details at their next meeting. Cost should be under £10 per head. Aldbourne are willing to host Autumn 2020 RW Bassett will host 2021	<b>PURTON</b>
9.	<b>Entry Fees, Club Deposits &amp; Fines for 2019/20 season</b>	It was proposed by the Committee that fees and fines would remain the same. Committee to look into Club Deposits as no one knew anything about them.	<b>COMMITTEE</b>
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. A discussion was had whether to raise the donation to £250 but as we do not fundraise, it was decided to remain the same rather than diminish our resources. <b>Proposed:</b> L Hall; <b>Seconded:</b> B Watts	<b>LH</b>
11.	<b>Proposed Rule Changes from the League Committee</b>	<b>Rule 5(g) From:</b> In the event of a postponement or unfinished match due to weather conditions, the match shall be played, if possible, during the following two weeks on a mutually convenient date, but in all cases before 31 <sup>st</sup> August (Summer League) or the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday after the Monday of the last week's fixtures (Winter League). <b>To:</b> In the event of a postponement or unfinished match due to weather conditions, the match shall be played <b>and entered on the LTA system</b> , if possible, during the following two weeks on a mutually convenient date, but in all cases before 31 <sup>st</sup> August (Summer League) or <b>21<sup>st</sup> March</b> (Winter League). Unanimously agreed  <b>Rule 3(b) From:</b> Winter League Teams may nominate their home day and start time when entering the Winter League. Floodlight matches are permitted but may start no later than 6.45pm. <b>To: Winter League matches shall take place during the course of one week Monday to Sunday.</b> Winter League Teams may nominate their home day and start time when entering the Winter League. Floodlight matches are permitted but may start no later than 6.45pm.  Agreed unanimously to alter the wording to: <b>For the purposes of Winter League a week will run from Monday to Sunday.</b>	

	<b>Item</b>	<b>Main action/discussion points</b>	<b>Action by:</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Proposal from Keith Hampson - Pewsey</b>	<b>Consideration of League’s Environmental Impact</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keith Hampson had done a lot of research into our Carbon Footprint. He gave figures on the amount of travel and Carbon Dioxide levels, and Floodlight usage. A discussion followed and it was suggested that Clubs put ideas forward to the Committee to consider. Keith’s notes attached.</li> </ul>	<b>ALL</b>
	<b>AOB</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was suggested that the November “Spare” week be taken out of the Winter League to finish earlier in December. – to be discussed at the next Committee Meeting</li> <li>Calne needs squeegees for court cleaning if anyone has some.</li> <li>The meeting closed at 8.10pm</li> </ul>	<b>DELTA</b>

## **LEAGUE ADMIN REPORT for 2019 AGM - Tuesday 26 November**

2018/2019 Winter League - 42 teams entered, same as previous winter, so we had 6 divisions again. Three teams withdrew, all without playing any matches. The number of conceded and one pair matches were slightly up on the previous winter.

Summer League 2019 - the number of teams entered was 130, the same as in 2018, but from 2 more clubs than in 2018 - as we welcomed Faringdon in the Men's and Down Ampney in the Ladies.

Fully conceded matches, at 18, were the same as 2018 but there was another increase in matches fielding only one pair. The total of conceded and one pair matches was 10% of the total matches. Three Ladies teams withdrew, two before the season began and another around half way through. The three teams were from divs 3, 4, & 5. Could have been worse if all had been from same div!

This year Pewsey A were the clear div.1 men's winner with last year's winner, Purton A, pushed down into a relegation spot. In the Mixed league, Swindon A just managed to hold onto their top place but had to relinquish the Ladies top spot to RWB A, who won by a very comfortable margin.

Ineligible players - were up in the winter and around the same in summer on previous years - 6 & 8 respectively.

Match Fines - down on last year from a total of £142 to £110, split into £22 winter & £88 summer. Of those, the fines for failing to meet the end of season re-arrangement deadlines were up on last year - only one in the winter but eight in the summer.

Each season I receive a number of emails asking for the dates when matches must be played by. This indicates that some captains are not reading the rules! Club main contacts should make sure all their captains, inputters and anyone who needs to know, have the rules or know where to find them. League rules and input instructions are on the SDTL website, under documents.

At this point it's worth a word about emails you may receive from Tournament Software and this will probably only mean anything to club main contacts so the rest bear with me for a few minutes. The facility to email all contacts directly from TS is convenient and very useful for Andy & I but ... those emails do seem to have a habit of going into junk/spam so please check your junk folder, especially at the beginning/end of seasons when you're most likely to be receiving mails from us. Also, the emails have a red message across the top saying: "This is an automated email message, replies are ignored". It is very misleading but rest assured that a reply will go back to the administrator who generated it. I have raised this as an issue with Competition Support (again!) and they have referred it to the developers. So, we may see an improvement next year but I'm not holding my breath! It's been going on since spring 2017 and I raised it with them then. Watch this space!

This winter, there's been no problems so far, that I'm aware of. No withdrawals, and not too many postponed matches, considering the amount of rain we've had! 44 teams entered, from 24 clubs which is 3 more clubs than last winter - so welcome to the winter league to Shrivenham, Faringdon and Defence Academy.

That's it for now so, unless there are any questions, I'll hand you back to Neil.

## **SDTL Environmental Impact**

At this time many people are increasingly concerned about the possible impacts of climate change and both people and organisations are looking to reduce their carbon footprints by reducing the quantities of greenhouse gases being released into the atmosphere.

With regard to the SDTL, we do drive some distance to away matches which generates CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and we do use floodlights quite a bit in the winter season.

I have done some analysis and have calculated that over 3,500 miles are driven to and from away matches during the winter league. This is based on just one car driving between locations and ignores other travel to matches. When I extrapolate the numbers to include the summer season, where there men's, ladies and mixed matches, the mileage is at least 17,000 miles, more than 3/5 of the way around the world.

Applying an average figure of 224g CO<sub>2</sub>/mile indicates that at least 4 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> are emitted through this driving. That figure excludes the CO<sub>2</sub> produced in the extraction, manufacture and transport of the fuel.

Looking at the use of floodlights, I estimate that over 5,500 Kwh of electricity are used for evening matches in the winter. Applying an average figure of 400g/Kwh to produce the electricity gives a figure of just over 2 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>.

In summary, the SDTL could be said to be responsible for over 6 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per year. This is equivalent to putting just over two extra cars on the road for a year.

The question for the assembled members here is – is this acceptable to your or, do you think something should be done to reduce our CO<sub>2</sub> footprint and publicize our efforts?

If action is desired, I suggest that a sub-group is assembled to look at practical steps that could be taken, e.g. reducing miles driven, reducing dependency on floodlights or encouraging clubs to source electricity from renewable sources.

Keith Hampson (Pewsey Tennis Club)