



# SWINDON & DISTRICT TENNIS LEAGUE

## Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 23rd November 2022 7:00pm

Gerard Buxton Sports Ground, Brinkworth Road, Royal Wootton Bassett SN4 8DS

2022 Committee	Club represented	2022 Committee	Club represented
Neil Allen	Chair - Swindon	Lucie Barrass	Secretary - Swindon
Jackie Wood	League Administrator - RWB	Andy Dickinson	League Administrator - Minety
Lindsey Hall	Treasurer - Purton	Charlie Foster	David Lloyd (apologies)
Steve Williams	Nationwide (apologies)		
Club	Representative(s)	Club	Representative(s)
Ashton Keynes	Greg Buckle	PAKT	Martin Cowell
Chiseldon	Sara Brazell, Julie Porte	Pewsey	Nick Hewens
David Lloyd	Nicola Grosvenor	Purton	Janet Saunders
Faringdon	Adrian Noke, Emily Pakeman	Ramsbury	Greg Phillips
Great Bedwyn	Bill Wells, Rachel Bond	RWB	Liz Lewis, Keith Sealy
Lechlade	Ian Heskins	RWB	Anna Green, Kirsten Walker
Marlborough	Andrew Payne	Swindon	Andrew Curran, Joe Murphy
Minety	Jake Miles	Wanborough	Gordon Heywood
Non-attendance			
Aldbourn	Defence Academy	Fairford	Shrivenham
Burbage	Delta Tennis	Highworth	Uffington
Calne	Devizes	Nalgo	
Chippenham	Down Ampney	Nationwide	

No	Item	Discussion points and actions	Action by:
1	Attendance and apologies for absence	<p>Neil Allen welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. Neil announced that Pasquale Mazzotta (PAKT) was in hospital and passed on the League's best wishes.</p> <p>Apologies received from Steve Williams and Charlie Foster (Committee members) before the AGM.</p>	No action
2	Approval of 2021 AGM minutes	<p>The minutes of the 2021 AGM had been distributed prior to the meeting. The 2021 minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting, with no matters arising.</p>	Approver: Andrew Payne (Marlborough)
3	Chair's report – Neil Allen	<p>Neil started his report with a reminder that for the first time in the League's history, in Summer 2022 clubs were given the opportunity to postpone matches due to adversely hot weather.</p> <p>There were only a couple of issues referred to the Committee and these would be mentioned in the League report.</p> <p>Neil thanked Swindon Tennis Club for hosting the annual Presentation Evening, and also thanked Ethel Hutchings for presenting the trophies.</p> <p>Neil thanked all the Committee members for their hard work and commitment, and also thanked Richard Vernon for sorting the League entries and preparing reports for the Committee, and David Lukens for printing the certificates.</p>	No action
4.	League report – Jackie Wood	<p><b><u>Winter League 2021/22</u></b> Quiet season, no issues reported. One team withdrew early in the season. Weather was relatively good until the final two weeks, hence several postponements but all were completed on time. Division 1 winner was Pewsey A; runner-up, Chiseldon A.</p> <p><b><u>Summer League 2022</u></b> Following entries for Summer 2021 being significantly down on previous years due to the pandemic, it was hoped that entries would recover for 2022. However they remained relatively low for women and mixed with 29 women's teams and 26 mixed teams. Two teams (1 men/1 mixed) withdrew before the season start, and 2 men's teams withdrew during the season. Five teams conceded matches, and there were 40 matches with only one pair available.</p> <p><b>Summer 2022 league results:</b> Men: Winner - Pewsey A; runner-up - Swindon A.</p>	

Women: Winner - Chiseldon A; runner-up - Swindon A  
Mixed: Winner - Pewsey A; runner-up - Swindon A

Match fines increased slightly vs 2021, but lower than pre-covid levels. Total fines of £78 (23 fines from 10 clubs in summer; 9 fines from 7 clubs in winter).

Adopting the LTA player database for the first time saw the main issues in Summer 2022. Some players needed help to sign up to LTA Advantage and affiliate to their club. There were still many players with Advantage numbers not appearing on the database for selection. Around 130 matches had unknown players - just over 100 individual players due to name non-matching issues and poor handwriting – please make team captains aware. With a lot of work, only three players couldn't be found by end of Summer league and so were ineligible to play.

**Please share with Club and Team captains:**

1. Any new player's Advantage number should be entered on the result sheet the first time they play on a team
2. If a player can't be found on the database, the player needs to login to their LTA Advantage account and affiliate with their venue, and check that the affiliation is marked as 'Permanent' with no end date. If there is an end date present, the player needs to change this to 'Permanent'.
3. If this doesn't work, the player should contact LTA customer support using the [LTA 'Contact Us' Form](#) and ask for their account to be updated. Players with duplicate accounts can also use this form to ask the LTA to merge their accounts.
4. There is now a new role of 'County & District League Contact' to replace shared club logins from 2023.
5. Each club's nominated League Contact will use their own Advantage login to enter results, and also to authorise Team Captains at their Club to enter results onto the Tournament Software using their individual logins.

League Status:  
Ahead of Summer 2023 there will be a 'New LTA Approved League Status' which all Leagues must apply for and one of the rules for this status is that Leagues must only allow LTA Registered Venues to compete.

Andy Dickinson added that PAKT would need to register as a venue.

Andy also mentioned that he is working with LTA to identify and work through errors.

Action: all club contacts to share points with Club and Team captains

Action: PAKT to register as LTA venue

		<p>Questions regarding League report:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It would be helpful to have a clear directive from Andy as to what else clubs could do to mitigate errors:</li> </ol> <p>Andy will update clubs as soon as LTA give updates, either by email or via the SDTL website. Also, if using LTA contact form, if you don't hear back in a timely manner then don't reply to the automated reply from LTA as this isn't always read – start a new contact form instead.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Can the LTA impose rules if the system doesn't work? Andy to take this point away and check whether the LTA can impose rules concerning eligibility of players if the LTA software doesn't work.</li> </ol>	<p>Action: Andy to update clubs</p> <p>Action: Andy to investigate with LTA</p>
5.	Treasurer's report – Lindsey Hall	<p>The Treasurer's report was distributed at the meeting. Lindsey reported that there was a total of £159 income over expenditure in the 2021/22 year after all fees and costs, with a closing balance of £1605.02.</p> <p>It was proposed and agreed unanimously that the League donate £200 to Wiltshire Juniors.</p> <p>No questions were raised.</p>	Report approved unanimously
6.	Election of officers	<p>Neil reminded all present that Committee members should only be in office for 3 years and that for the League to survive, it is incumbent on clubs to discuss and nominate members to step up and help run the League.</p> <p>The most urgent is a nomination for a new Chair (immediate) and Neil asked clubs to please provide nominations as soon as possible for a smooth handover.</p> <p>Nominations for league administrators would also be welcomed in the next two years and training would be available. Nominations for Committee members would also be very welcome.</p> <p>The role descriptions for all posts will be posted on the league website and emailed to Clubs, to help with discussions and nominations.</p> <p>Steve Williams resigned from the Committee prior to the AGM. Chair will be vacant if not replaced. All other officers remain in post - approved by those present.</p>	Action: all clubs to review role profiles and discuss with their Committees and provide nomination(s)
7.	Life members	No Life Members nominated.	

8.	Presentation evening	<p>Neil thanked Swindon Tennis Club for stepping up and hosting the evening in 2022 and asked if any clubs would volunteer to host in 2023.</p> <p>Andrew Payne (Marlborough) confirmed that Marlborough would host, and that the venue would be likely to be Marlborough Golf Club. Neil thanked Andrew for nominating Marlborough to host the event in 2023.</p> <p>Neil confirmed that ticket price could be up to £24 per head, although Swindon had reduced it to £20 for 2022 in light of current cost of living crisis.</p>	Marlborough to plan and deliver 2023 event
9.	Entry fees 2023	It was confirmed that all entry fees would remain the same as for 2022.	Approved unanimously
10.	Donations and funding	Treasurer recommended in her report that £200 be donated to Wiltshire Juniors	Approved unanimously – see Treasurer’s report section
11.	Offsetting of emissions	<p>Andy Dickinson provided an update on the League’s purchase of 180 trees so far through <a href="#">Tree-Nation</a> which will offset 18 tons of CO2 in their lifetime.</p> <p>Andy also mentioned that Wiltshire Tennis have committed to being carbon neutral by 2030, and there are things that can be done to support this by clubs. Andy explained the carbon footprint of a tennis ball (including manufacture, distribution, low recycling – of 300m balls used around the world, only 15m are recycled). Match balls have to be specific brands that are ITF-approved, but Wiltshire Tennis will be putting together some information to help clubs reduce their carbon footprint. Information will be put onto the Wiltshire Tennis website in due course.</p>	Action: Wiltshire Tennis to provide information
12	Proposed rule changes	<p>a) All rule changes proposed by the Committee were contained in the marked-up document provided to all clubs before the AGM.</p> <p>b) Proposal 1 (Swindon TC) was to include some examples within section 4 to clarify when a player may or may not represent their club in a re-arranged match; and clarify eligibility of players from week to week.</p> <p>The proposal was discussed, but it was felt there are too many examples and it would make the Rules more lengthy – the best approach would be to</p>	Rule changes approved unanimously

		<p>contact League Administrators by email/phone to check, and that the administrators were generally on hand quickly to respond to any queries.</p> <p>Decision not to change rules accepted by Proposer (Swindon).</p> <p>c) Proposal 2 (Swindon TC) was to change the format of Winter league to Mens, Ladies and optional Mixed, to provide more flexibility for more club members to play in the League in winter matches.</p> <p>The proposal was discussed, including the background which was down to the number of divisions playing in winter and the different setup compared to other counties such as Berkshire, Surrey and Essex. Consensus was that it would be difficult for smaller clubs to field enough players, and that there also may be balancing acts between matches (especially using lights or at weekends) vs recreational tennis access to non-competing club members.</p> <p>Andy and Neil also reminded clubs that they can field teams in other leagues, not just Swindon &amp; District and that this may be a way of club members playing more often.</p> <p>Decision: no change now, but League to send a notice to all clubs at the same time as Summer entries to ask clubs to consider this proposal and also other formats (e.g. `mixed Medley, Fast Four, Fast Seven) and respond with Change/No Change/Abstain by an agreed date.</p>	<p>Motion denied – no change</p> <p>Action: League administrators to gauge interest of different Winter formats at same time as next Summer’s entry comms, and let Clubs know response deadline.</p>
13.	AOB	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Janet Saunders (Purton) reiterated her complaint during the presentation evening about the awful food, freezing venue and lack of value for money. Two other club members (a member from RWB and Nicola Grosvenor from David Lloyd) agreed. Lucie Barrass (Swindon, hosts) noted the comments on behalf of Swindon Tennis Club and explained again that a buffet (as advertised and covering all but one dietary requirement) had been ordered in good faith for 90 people and that the Swindon’s feedback as hosts had been given to the venue. Neil thanked Swindon again for putting on the event, and asked clubs to give feedback to the League committee on what a presentation evening should include.</li> <li>2. Nick Hewens (Pewsey) asked whether any other clubs could provide their experiences/plans for LED floodlights.</li> </ol>	<p>Action: clubs to send ideas for presentation evening formats to League Committee</p>

Neil Allen suggested that Nick contact Ed Nieburg at National Tennis Association (who manage the venue that Swindon Tennis Club plays at) as Ed and team have recently had LEDs installed on all 10 full courts and 3 touch tennis courts and could share more information about funding as well as practical advice.

Andy Dickinson mentioned there is an LTA webinar on floodlights (useful [links here](#) and [here](#)) for those interested, and also mentioned Lee West from LTA sharing information across the county.

Ramsbury mentioned they had put lights up on two courts, and Faringdon also mentioned they have had LEDs for about 5 years and would be happy to share their experiences with Nick.

Neil thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.40pm.