



SWINDON & DISTRICT TENNIS LEAGUE

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 14th November 2023 7:00pm

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

2023 Committee	Role and club represented	2023 Committee	Role and club represented
Neil Allen	Chair - Swindon	Lucie Barrass	Secretary - Swindon
Jackie Wood	League Administrator - RWB	Andy Dickinson	League Administrator - Minety
Lindsey Hall	Treasurer - Purton		
Club	Representative(s)	Club	Representative(s)
Ashton Keynes	Greg Buckle	Nationwide	Steve Williams
Chiseldon	Sara Brazell, Darryl Bailey	Pewsey	Nick Hewens, Steve May
Down Ampney	Jo Williams	Ramsbury	Ethel Hutchings, David Langton
Great Bedwyn	Bill Wells, Paul Disley	RWB	Liz Lewis, Tracy Fieldsend
Lechlade	Gay Oliver, Jon Murray	Swindon	Andrew Curran
Marlborough	Andrew Payne	Uffington	Anne Hollingworth
Minety	Jake Miles		
Non-attendance			
Aldbourn	Defence Academy	Fairford	PAKT
Burbage	Delta Tennis	Faringdon	Shrivenham
Calne	David Lloyd	Highworth	Wanborough
Chippenham	Devizes	Nalgo	

No	Item	Discussion points and actions	Action:
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 David Lloyd, Delta, Fairford, PAKT and Janet Saunders (Purton).</p>	
2	Approval of 2022 AGM minutes	<p>The minutes of the 2022 AGM had been distributed after the 2022 meeting. The 2022 minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting, with no matters arising.</p>	
3	Chair's report – Neil Allen	<p>Neil thanked colleagues on the Committee for their commitment, with an ever-increasing workload for Andy and Jackie as league administrators. He also thanked Charlie Foster for her contribution as she she recently resigned from the Committee, and thanked Richard Vernon and David Lukens for their help with league sorts and certificates. Neil reiterated that two new Committee members are desperately needed to help with the smooth running of the League, and hoped that two people would step up and volunteer for the roles.</p> <p>Any rule questions and behaviour issues reported to the Committee over the last year were dealt with at the time.</p> <p>No questions were raised.</p>	
4.	League report and LTA updates – Jackie Wood/Andy Dickinson	<p>Jackie gave her report of the Winter '22/'23 and Summer '23 league activity and results. Please see the League Report attached to these Minutes. There were no questions raised on the League Report and it was approved and seconded.</p> <p>Jackie reiterated that there continues to be an issue with ineligible players, primarily 'Unknown' due to not sharing an LTA Advantage number with their Club/Team Captain so they can't be found on the results database.</p> <p>Please note: All rubbers played by 'Unknown' players will be void, so it is very important to ensure that all players are registered correctly, ideally before they play for their club. Please once again share the following actions with Club and Team captains:</p> <p>1. Any new player's Advantage number should be entered on the result sheet the first time they play on a team in order to search for their details on the results database.</p>	<p>All club contacts to share points with Club and Team captains</p>

		<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>5. Each club's nominated admin and team captains should use their own Advantage logins to enter results onto the Tournament Software.</p> <p>League Status: Andy confirmed that SDTL is an approved League under the new LTA League Status rule. As an Approved League, rules may need to be standardised across all Leagues so this may also affect our current Rules.</p> <p>New version of LTA league software: Andy confirmed that a new version of league software is being rolled out around the UK, and is expected to be in place for SDTL during H1 2024. Some SDTL league rules will need to be updated following this change, so an EGM will be called at the appropriate time.</p> <p>Based on the new software, confirmation of match results will no longer be required, so some of the rule proposals in this AGM will be for the short term until the new version is live. Captains' and Players' guides will also be updated to reflect any changes once the new software is live.</p> <p>Andy reiterated Neil's point that volunteers are needed to support the League; for instance and as an example only, in the event that Jackie couldn't continue as league administrator the league would fold.</p>	Clubs to nominate volunteers for Committee
5.	Treasurer's report – Lindsey Hall	<p>Lindsey delivered the Treasurer's report, copies of which were distributed at the meeting. A copy is also attached to these Minutes for reference.</p> <p>No questions were raised, and the report was approved and seconded.</p>	
6.	Election of officers	<p>Neil reminded all present 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>New Chair:</p> <p>Neil proposed that Nick Hewens (Pewsey) become SDTL Chair with immediate effect. This was seconded and unanimously approved unanimously.</p> <p>Andy Dickinson thanked Neil on behalf of the Committee, and proposed that Neil be given Life Membership of the League due to his decades of support for league tennis in Swindon & Wiltshire, and several years in his role as Chair of SDTL. This was seconded, and unanimously approved.</p> <p>Andrew Payne proposed that Kath More (Marlborough) become a Committee member and thanked her for volunteering. This was seconded and approved unanimously, and the Committee asked Andrew to thank Kath for kindly volunteering.</p> <p>Neil asked the members present whether anyone would like to volunteer for the Committee. There were no responses. As such, there is still one vacancy for a general Committee member and Neil asked clubs to discuss in their own committee meetings.</p> <p>It was proposed that all other existing Committee members continue to stand. This was unanimously approved.</p>	<p>Lucie to contact Kath More with details</p> <p>Action: all clubs to discuss with their Committees and provide nomination(s)</p>
7.	Life members	Neil Allen proposed and approved as a Life Member.	
8.	Presentation evening	Neil thanked Marlborough Tennis Club for offering to host the evening in 2023. Andrew Payne (Marlborough) provided an update on arrangements, confirming the format would be a 2-course meal and entertainment. 83 people have confirmed attendance.	Action: Club needed to volunteer to host 2024 Presentation Evening. Please respond to SDTL Secretary.
9.	Entry fees 2024	Due to the impending change in League rules in H1 2024, entry fees may need to be raised to offset lack of fines to ensure the League can pay its expenses. This will be a point for discussion at the EGM mentioned above. EGM date to be confirmed.	No action until EGM in 2024

10.	Donations and funding	Lindsay recommended in her Treasurer's report that £200 be donated to Wiltshire Juniors. This was unanimously approved.	LH to transfer money to Wiltshire Tennis
11.	Offsetting of emissions	Andy Dickinson provided an update on the League's purchase of 421 trees so far through Tree-Nation , which will offset 210 tons of CO2 in their lifetime.	
12	Proposed rule changes	<p>Andy mentioned that LTA were surprised that we have fines as many other Leagues don't, but we have a lot of problems and fines are currently the best method of preventing and solving problems. Income from fines along with team entry fees provide the Committee with the funds it needs to run the League effectively, as shown in the Treasurer's report. Fairford questioned the use of fines in their apology email but no further information on their question was made available.</p> <p>Andy suggested that when the League software is updated in H1 2024, the home team enters results and no confirmation will be needed by the away team, but the away team will still need to check that the results are accurate and contact the home team's captain directly if they disagree. Disputes should only come to the SDTL committee if the result is still disputed by the away team after this has happened. This will be discussed at the EGM, date tbc.</p> <p>All the following rule changes proposed by the Committee were contained in the marked-up document provided to all clubs before the AGM:</p> <p>Proposal 1:</p> <p>Rule 8(b) - increase fines for unrecorded results from £2 to £3:</p> <p>Failure by the home team to record a result or a postponement comment within 72 hours of the scheduled match will result in the offending club being fined £3 initially and a further £3 for every week that the result remains unconfirmed.</p> <p>Or alternatively, increase fines from £2 to £5:</p> <p>Failure by the home team to record a result or a postponement comment within 72 hours of the scheduled match will result in the offending club being fined £5 initially and a further £5 for every week that the result remains unconfirmed.</p>	<p>Motion approved</p> <p>(20 for, 1 against)</p> <p>Motion denied</p> <p>(11 for, 10 against)</p>

		<p>Proposal 2:</p> <p>Rule 8(c) - increase unconfirmed fines from £2 to £3:</p> <p>For results without Unknown Players, failure to confirm the result within 7 days of the match by the away team when the result has been entered by the home team, or the home team when the result has been entered by the away team, will result in the offending team being fined £3 initially and a further £3 for every week that the result remains unconfirmed.</p> <p>Proposal 3:</p> <p>Rule 8(d) - increase fine for incorrect confirmation from £2 to £3:</p> <p>A team that confirms an incorrect match result will be levied a fee of £3.</p> <p>Proposal 4:</p> <p>Rule 8(e) - points deduction for consistently late/incorrect results:</p> <p>For every three instances of late results entry, late match confirmation or confirmation of incorrect match results, the team will be deducted 1 point.</p> <p>Proposal 5:</p> <p>Rule 8(g) - increase fine for unreported rearranged fixtures from £2 to £3:</p> <p>Failure by the home team to enter the dates of any rearranged fixtures onto the system by the dates specified in rule 5(h) will result in a fine of £3 and a further £3 for every week that the new date remains un-entered.</p> <p>Andy reiterated that when the League software is updated, rules may need to be changed again and therefore an EGM may be arranged to propose and approve any changes.</p>	<p>Motion approved</p> <p>(10 for, 5 against)</p> <p>Motion approved</p> <p>(14 for, 7 against)</p> <p>Motion approved (unanimous)</p> <p>Motion approved (unanimous)</p> <p>EGM to be confirmed</p>
13.	AOB	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Andrew Payne (Marlborough) shared an idea for increased entry fees contributing to a prize draw for two prizes such as LTA Experience Weekends, currently worth £289 per head for a Friday-Sunday program. Andrew's Powerpoint presentation is attached to these minutes for consideration for feedback by Clubs at the EGM mentioned above. 2. A member asked whether captains would be able to change details - Andy confirmed that team captains can use their individual logins already. 	

		Neil thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.50pm.	
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