



# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, 25th November 2025 at 7pm

Gerard Buxton Sports Ground, Royal Wootton Bassett

## **Attendance:**

Aldbourne, Ashton Keynes, Biddestone, Calne, Chiseldon, Down Ampney, Lechlade, Marlborough, Minety, Pewsey, Purton, Ramsbury, RW Bassett, Swindon

## **Non-attendance without apology:**

Chippenham, David Lloyd, Delta, Devizes, Fairford, Highworth, Nationwide, PAKT, Uffington, Wanborough

## **1. Apologies**

Alan Hunt (Committee), Kath More (Committee), Bill Wells (Great Bedwyn), Lynne Jilbert (Farrington), David Lukens (RW Bassett)

## **2. 2024 Minutes**

Minutes are shared with the AGM.

Two unresolved actions are discussed.

Action: Andy Dickinson (Committee) to find out whether these balls are ITF-approved.

Andy Dickinson (Committee) says that Price Balls are not ITF approved.

Action: Committee to discuss and then send out a survey asking clubs' opinions on different formats including having shorter match times. Suggestions included Fast-4, 3 pairs, fewer teams in more divisions, etc.

Nick Hewens (Committee) says that the change to Fast4 format was discussed in the committee meeting but it came to no conclusion. No survey has been sent out yet. No change to format.

*Accepted: Derek Warnett (Calne)*

*Seconded: Steve May (Pewsey)*

## **3. Chair's Report**

Nick Hewens (Committee) reports that the Winter and Summer leagues have gone well. There was one complaint about player behaviour and this issue has been resolved. Issues with the new LTA software have now settled and it is believed to be much easier to use



than before. It is noted that league finances are not healthy and so a proposal has been put forward to be discussed later.

Andy Dickinson (Committee) says that he would like to thank Nick Hewens (Committee) and Pewsey Tennis Club for hosting a fantastic presentation evening.

Q. Does a behavioural ban carry on into future seasons?

Nick Hewens (Committee) says that it is not for life but it depends on the seriousness of the incident. A ban would typically be in force for a maximum of one year.

## 4. League Report

Jackie Wood (Committee) presents her report (See Appendix 1 League Report).

It is noted that at least one unknown player flag was due to gender being set to U.

Andy Dickinson (Committee) says that the LTA District Leagues software enforces gender to be either M or F.

## 5. Treasurer's Report

Lindsey Hall (Committee) shares copies of her report with attendees and discusses the key points (See Appendix 2 Treasurer's Report).

Q. Does the financial year end on the 25th November?

Lindsey Hall (Committee) says that it ends a couple of days before the AGM and has no specific date.

**Action:** Lindsey Hall (Committee) to consider setting a financial year date.

*Accepted: Greg Buckle (Ashton Keynes)*

*Seconded: David Langton (Ramsbury)*

## 6. Election of Officers

All committee members are committed to stand for re-election.

*Accepted*

## 7. Life Member nominations

None nominated

Q. Is there a list of current life members?

The list of current life members is on the website.

Nick Hewens (Committee) notes that David Lukens (RW Bassett) should be on the list.

**Action:** Andy Dickinson (Committee) to add David Lukens (RW Bassett) to the list of life members



## 8. Presentation Evening

Nick Hewens (Committee) thanked everyone who came along to the Annual S&DTL Awards evening, hosted by Pewsey TC on the previous Friday, and hoped that everyone enjoyed it. Over 100 people attended from 13 clubs.

Nick Hewens (Committee) asks for volunteers for next presentation evening.

*Swindon TC to host 2026 - Sam Pugh (Swindon)*

*Ramsbury TC to host 2027 - David Langton (Ramsbury)*

## 9. Entry fees and Fines

### A. Proposal to increase fees to cover costs

Andy Dickinson (Committee) presents finances for fees. Fines are going down, LTA fees are going up. 3 more cups to replace and 2 or more for repair. Explaining fees and costs reason for finance change. It is believed that the cost is fair. Increase is £1.50 per team.

Q. Enough buffer to cope? Does it need to go up to cover?

Andy Dickinson (Committee) says yes, some other leagues charge £10.

Lindsey Hall (Committee) says £12 was thought to be too much in one go.

Q. Does this only allow one more new trophy?

Andy Dickinson (Committee) says yes. We can deal with just one broken trophy for another year.

Q. Any other costs that we haven't thought about?

Andy Dickinson (Committee) says that there are no other costs identified at this time.

Nick Hewens (Committee) says that we need to raise fees and that there may have to be a small rise next year too.

Q. Big issues with the proposal. Why are we paying for Trees, CO2 offset and Wiltshire Tennis? Why not just cut these costs?

Q. Concerned about the £2.34 per team for use of the software?

Andy Dickinson (Committee) explains that the LTA pays a third-party to run its software and that is the cost. We can't do the software ourselves.

Q. What are the transaction charges?

Andy Dickinson (Committee) says that this is a Stripe bank charge. Community banks now have charges applied to them.

Q. Are Stripe fees included in the £10?

Andy Dickinson (Committee) says yes.

Q. What reductions are being made?



Nick Hewens (Committee) says planting trees for carbon offset is negotiable.

Lindsey Hall (Committee) says that carbon offsetting was a big discussion in a previous AGM where someone provided a lot of research and it was voted in at that AGM.

Q. How many trophies need replacing?

Andy Dickinson (Committee) says that 2 to 3 over the next few years.

Q. What's the chance of coming back with more financial increases next year?

Andy Dickinson (Committee) says possibly not in the next few years.

**Action:** Andy Dickinson (Committee) to send spreadsheet of the fee calculations and apologised for not sending with the AGM notice.

Q. Why is there a raffle amount?

Andy Dickinson (Committee) says that previously we would ask for prizes to be donated and no prizes would be forthcoming so instead we now ask for a donation.

**Action:** Calne TC to send an amended fee proposal to the SDTL committee for consideration at the next AGM.

Q. Any thoughts about sponsorship to cover the cost of trophy replacement?

Andy Dickinson (Committee) says that it is a good suggestion and asks if anyone would be interested in pursuing it.

Andy Dickinson (Committee) says that our league is nominated for an LTA award for our carbon offsetting.

Q. Could we apply for a Youth Development Fund for up to £200?

Nick Hewens (Committee) says that it is a good suggestion.

**Action:** Nick Hewens (Committee) to try and find sponsors and apply for Youth Development funding.

*Vote to accept proposed fee changes: 18 for, 1 against, 1 abstain*

*Accepted*

## 10. Funding and Donations

Lindsey Hall (Committee) proposes a donation of £200 to the Wiltshire Junior Tennis Programme.

*Vote to accept proposed changes: 20 for, none against, none abstain*

*Accepted*

**Action:** Lindsey Hall (Committee) to make the donation.

## 11. Offsetting of Emissions



Andy Dickinson (Committee) reported on the number of trees planted and the lifetime carbon offset. We've been nominated for an emissions LTA award for CO2. Nick Hewens (Committee) says we are committed this year but there may be a proposal to stop it next year.

**Action:** Andy Dickinson (Committee) to purchase additional trees from Winter league fees gathered.

## **12. Proposed rule changes submitted by the Committee**

Nick Hewens (Committee) asks whether all present have reviewed the marked up document shared with the Agenda - all confirmed they had read the document in advance. Nick Hewens (Committee) then highlights some of the proposed changes and invites discussion.

### **A. State that the league is an outdoor league**

Andy Dickinson (Committee) explains that David Lloyd have stated that there is nothing in the rules to prevent matches played indoors. It has been an unwritten rule that our league is an outdoor event.

Q. Can it be played indoors with agreement from both teams?

Andy Dickinson (Committee) says Yes, both teams need to agree.

Q. What would happen if they book indoor courts and the away captain says no?

Andy Dickinson (Committee) says that the home team would have to find alternative courts or concede the match.

Q. Is it in the rules that the home team would concede if they have no courts available?

*Vote to accept proposed changes: 20 for, none against, none abstain*

*Accepted*

### **B. State that a Division 1 team must nominate 4 players**

Two clubs raise the suggestion that this would not work for women's teams. If the Womens, A, B and C team have injuries then, A team players have to play down to the B team, and B team players to the C team. With the small number of women players in the club, nominating four players for the A team would be too restrictive.

Q. Is this only for Division 1 teams?

Andy Dickinson (Committee) says Yes

Q. Would this not have a greater impact on smaller clubs?

Andy Dickinson (Committee) explains why this is proposed. Outlining that there has been



a history of some clubs playing very talented players down. It's not fair that they are playing down and it's not right that they should.

One club agreed saying that it happened to them last year where the opponent team played one of their best players down. As a result it meant that the club team didn't get promoted.

Q. Could we compromise and nominate two instead of four?

Andy Dickinson (Committee) says that it should be four to prevent this

Nick Hewens (Committee) asks what is the experience with other leagues?

Andy Dickinson (Committee) says that other leagues nominate four players.

Q. How many clubs in the league have more than two county players?

Andy Dickinson (Committee) says not sure

Q. Does it apply to mixed doubles?

Andy Dickinson (Committee) says Yes

**Action:** Andy Dickinson (Committee) to add rule to state 2 men and 2 women for mixed doubles.

Q. What if a nominated player is injured and may not want to play for division 1?

Andy Dickinson (Committee) says if they have already played 3 matches, the committee would consider situations.

Q. What is the penalty?

Q. Do the match results get expunged?

In smaller clubs, players frequently alternate between Div 1 and Div 2 teams. So they may struggle to find players and possibly lose players as a result.

Also clubs may enter less teams as a result of this change.

Andy Dickinson (Committee) says that it's only an issue for the first 3 weeks of matches, after that they are committed.

Q. Why are coaches allowed to play in the league?

Andy Dickinson (Committee) says that he's empathetic with smaller clubs, but he has seen at least 20 incidents of playing down in his tenure, around 1 or 2 a season.

Q. We agree but we don't want restrictive rules, so maybe the committee could have a quiet word with the teams if they play down?

Q. Do we have an analysis of the prevalence of this scenario?

Q. Is there a way to bring up statistics and name and shame?

Nick Hewens (Committee) says there has been no analysis but I think we all accept that something has to be done

Q. Maybe restrict it to Men's league first, as an experiment?



Andy Dickinson (Committee) says that at least four clubs have gamed the system in the start of the season.

*Vote to accept proposed changes: 3 for, 12 against, 5 abstain*

*Rejected*

*Vote to accept proposed changes for Men Div1 Only: 10 for, 4 against, 6 abstain*

*Rejected*

**C. State that no matches can be played on Friday night**

*Vote to accept proposed changes: 14 for, none against, 6 abstain*

*Accepted*

**D. State that Winter League can only be played on Thursday or the Weekend**

Q. Why is it Thursday? It's too restrictive. Takes flexibility. Why do it?

One club mentions that the only time they can play in Winter League is on a Wednesday evening.

One club states that when you put aside some nights then it makes organising more difficult.

Another club has the opposite as players are not available Thursday.

*Vote to accept proposed changes: 0 for, 11 against, 9 abstain*

*Rejected*

**E. State all trophies must be cleaned or a fine of £2.50**

Andy Dickinson (Committee) says that it costs £2.50 per cup to clean.

*Vote to accept proposed changes: 20 for, none against, none abstain*

*Accepted*

**13. Proposed rule changes submitted by Clubs**

None. Proposed rule changes from Purton TC and Great Bedwyn TC were covered in rule changes submitted by the committee.

**14. AOB**

Q. A couple of years ago we played on a court not fit for purpose. How does the committee ensure courts are in a suitable condition?

Nick Hewens (Committee) says that we had three requests for improvement. Courts at Delta, one court at Nationwide and courts at another club which is in a live discussion.



Nick Hewens (Committee) says that he personally inspects the courts and decides if they are safe to play.

Q. Would LTA be involved in inspecting the court?

Nick Hewens (Committee) says that he is not sure.

Andy Dickinson (Committee) says that through LTA affiliation the club has a contract with the LTA to specify their court maintenance and ongoing risk assessment.

Nick Hewens (Committee) says that it's currently subject to his decision.

Q. What happens if the away team turns up and the court is not safe, can they cancel the match?

Nick Hewens (Committee) says Yes

Q. Is it written in the rules that the match can be cancelled for this reason?

Andy Dickinson (Committee) says Yes. 5.N. Dangerous court surface conditions. So you can refuse to play.

Q. Is it cause for postponement?

Andy Dickinson (Committee) says Yes.

Andy Dickinson (Committee) says we are insured as a league but we are merely organisers of matches. The club is responsible for court safety. It is up to the team captain to judge and the committee will defend any decision on court safety that the committee later inspects.

It was mentioned that court resurfacing is really expensive, typically £15,000 a court.

Q. Would it be possible to send out county playing opportunities to league club contacts?

Andy Dickinson (Committee) says that Wiltshire Tennis have been sending out information but it went to club admins. A few people are being asked to go into the county squad.

**Action:** Andy Dickinson (Committee) to ask captains from Wiltshire to email club contacts and also ask Kath Brooks to send email through Newsletter.

Nick Hewens (Committee) thanks the committee for their work and thanks the clubs present for their attendance at the AGM.

The AGM closes at 21:15.



## Appendix 1. League Report written by Jackie Wood (Committee)

### LEAGUE ADMIN REPORT for 2025 AGM – 7pm Tuesday 25 November

**Last winter league** 35 teams from 18 clubs. No withdrawals and only a few conceded or part conceded matches.

Once again, division 1 was won by Pewsey A, but a change to the 2<sup>nd</sup> place with Chiseldon A r/u. Overall, a quiet season, apart from another winter of atrocious weather, with no other issues I recall.

**Summer League 2025** – The number of entries were similar to 2024.

54 men's teams with 1 team withdrawing from division 2 in week 6.

28 women's teams with 1 team withdrawing from div 1 before the season start.

31 mixed teams, 1 withdrawal from div 4 before the start.

Fully conceded and one pair matches were down again on previous year at 9 and 23 respectively (11 & 30 in 2024). One match was marked as 'Not played' with no points awarded to either team. This was a postponed BH match between two teams from the same club which, under our rules, must be played within two weeks of the original date. Despite reminders the club failed to play.

**System setup**, entries & payments were made on line for the first time, incurring additional costs.

Men's division 1 top spot was retained by Swindon A with Pewsey A settling for 2nd place again.

RWB A ladies retained their title for the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year, with Marlborough A in 2nd place.

Mixed were as for the last few years, Pewsey A first, RWB A second.

What a change in the weather from the last two summers - we had very few rained off evenings and fewer than usual matches were left part finished due to poor light etc.

I am happy to say the number of input errors were significantly down on previous years, as were the number of fines and the number of clubs incurring those fines.

I am hoping this is an indication that most folk are finding the new system easier, now they are getting used to it, and that we can expect the improvements to continue in future seasons.

More detail on **Fines**: Winter: 5 fines from 3 clubs, total of £21, much lower than previous years.

Summer: 21 fines from 6 clubs, totalling £69. 16 of those fines, total of £54, were from just two clubs.

Neither of those club have very many teams, so it is a bit of a mystery why they struggle to manage their teams when clubs with a lot of teams have much better admin processes in place.

One penalty point, for multiple late entries, was deducted from teams from each of those two clubs.

The number of **unknown players** continues to fall, most being new members to their clubs and are very quickly resolved. Some of the unknowns were due to the LTA's new diversity policy where players need to complete a competition eligibility questionnaire.

Having said this reducing trend is great, it is a bit annoying that around 20% of the unknowns could have been avoided had the person entering searched properly! If possible, it is best to encourage new players to sign up or check their advantage a/cs are in order **before** they play.

**Ineligible players**: Nine ineligible were found from five clubs, two during the season, the rest at the end. Some resulted in changes to the league tables but none of any great significance.

One of the apparent ineligible turned out to be a case of the wrong player having been selected when entering the result – this highlights the importance of checking the entries carefully.

As I have said before, just because there is no longer a Confirm button to press does not mean the away team have nothing to do! The home teams' result entries still need to be checked by the away team with any issues resolved between the two teams. It is important to do this straight away as there is only a 10-day window for the home team to edit and there is a fine now for each error NOT corrected by the end of that 10-day window.



## Appendix 2. Treasurer's Report written by Lindsey Hall (Committee)

INCOME & EXPENDITURE REPORT									
INCOME	2024/25	2023/24	2022/23	2021/22	EXPENDITURE	2024/25	2023/24	2022/23	2021/22
Team Fees (Summer)	456	440	456	434	Trophies & Engraving	631.47	187.66	187.66	186.6
Fines (Match & AGM)	165	240	123	118.5	LTA Subscriptions	0	164.16		0
Setoff	300	290	302	288	Donations	200	200	200	200
Raffle Donations	57.5	105	105	120	Raffle Prizes	95	105	105	120
Team Fees (Winter)	144	140	148	132	Software/website	75.54	75.54	181.44	0
Other	0	0		0	Trees Bought	540.75	0	298.84	287.32
					Website		141.6	39.6	119.39
					Other	25	25	24	20
					Charges	138.72			
									Bank Charges & Stripe
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>1122.5</b>	<b>1215</b>	<b>1134</b>	<b>1092.5</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>1706.48</b>	<b>898.96</b>	<b>1036.54</b>	<b>933.31</b>
Excess of income over expenditure	-583.98	316.04	97.46	159.19					
					Now amalgamated				
<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2013/14</b>				
Opening Balance	2018.52	1702.48	1605.02	1445.83					
Excess of income over exp.	-583.98	316.04	97.46	159.19					
Closing Balance	1434.54	2018.52	1702.48	1605.02					
Raffle for winter entries to be invoiced		£47.50							
Replacement of worn trophies and engraving plates									
Last year's trees bought this year									
Annual Donation to Wilts Juniors									
President's ticket to Presentation Evening									