

MINUTES OF THE AUTUMN GENERAL MEETING OF THE LEEDS TENNIS LEAGUE

HELD ON 7th NOVEMBER 2011 AT CHAPEL ALLERTON TENNIS CLUB

Present Seventeen clubs were represented

Adel: G Bond, G Williams, J Micklethwaite, G Pedder, S Pedder

Alwoodley: S Harris, S Taylor

Armley: L Pearson

Boston Spa: T Hughes, W Zeigler

Chapel Allerton: C Cherry, C Kaiser

David Lloyd: M Gill, C Johnson

Grove Hill: L Ashworth, H Dove

Horsforth: M Kidd

Ilkley: C Campbell

John Charles: D Brown, S Cordingley, R Salloo, N Siddique, C Tatman

Kirkstall: A Bailey

Pool: C Leggatt

Rawdon: M Martindale

Roundhay: S Abbey, C Harper, C Marsh, A Sedivy

St Chad's: J Ingle

Wakefield: S Bastow

Wetherby: M Green, T Wright

Committee: Graham Bond, Chairman; Jill Ingle, Secretary; Gary Williams, Treasurer; Charlie Tatman, Juniors and Singles League Sections; Dwight Brown, Mens Section; Carol Cherry, Winter League Co-ordinator; Steve Bastow IT and Website matters; Mike Green Vets Double League.

Bardsey, Carnegie, Georgian, Heaton, Sandal and Whitkirk were not represented.

Graham Bond welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the members of the committee.

1. Apologies for Absence

The following apologies were received:

Alwoodley: E Bottone; **Armley:** N McDonald, J Pritchard; **Chapel Allerton:** S Smith; **David Lloyd:** S Shipley; **Horsforth:** J Bailey, C Harvatt, H West; **Ilkley:** C Wilkinson; **St Chad's:** M Day, K Wignall; **Wetherby:** A Crossley; **Whitkirk:** K Sherburn, M Stearman.

Committee: Ken Walker, Deputy Chairman and Fixtures; Penny Rice, Fixtures; Janet Pritchard, Mixed/Medley Section; Susan Smith, Ladies Section; Chris Wilkinson, Mens Section.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the AGM held at Adel TC on Monday 7th March 2011 were accepted and approved.

Jill Ingle noted, with apologies, that Armley TC had been omitted from the entry list in Mixed Division 2 in the minutes issued after the meeting.

3. Matters Arising

Matters arising will be dealt with under agenda items.

4. Report on Summer League 2011

4.1: Graham Bond reported that the major initiative had been the introduction of the LTA Tennis Tournament Planner system (TTP) on the Adult summer leagues.

-He thanked Steve Bastow for his work on this and on the League's website. Steve and the Section Coordinators had provided help to the team captains and, after some initial teething problems, felt that the system had worked well.

-He noted that Winning captains generally input results within 48 hours of the match.

-He encouraged Losing captains to confirm results within the stipulated 5 day period. This would help to maintain the accuracy of recorded information and keep the tables up to date.

Steve Bastow thanked team captains for their co-operation and commented that the system had generally run smoothly all summer.

-The issues arising included:

a) Medley: The playing format and scoring system is quite different to any other competition. Some rubbers can have tied results although the TTP expects a winning result to be achieved. Teams had to email results to Janet Pritchard who applied a manual override. This created extra work.

-It was agreed to consider moving to a result in each rubber such as a tie-break at 7 games all.

-Jill Ingle will email the clubs involved so that proposals for any rule changes can be presented to the AGM.

b) Incomplete Sets: Instances where a match result had been reached but not all sets had been completed threw up a situation where the TTP automatically awarded 2 points to the team who was ahead in the set at the time of abandonment regardless of the number of games played.

-A change was instigated so that if a set was incomplete or one team had not won 4 games then the result was not entered. The issue is with the LTA for ideas on a resolution.

c) Results Reporting: Generally all results were entered in a timely fashion but confirmation of scores was not always done. Feedback from clubs though has been positive, particularly regarding the ease of input, access to up-to-date tables, player statistics and the level of information available.

d) Player names: Building on the Winter League experience clubs were encouraged to enter player names and BTM numbers (where known) onto the TTP early in the season and assistance was given with this. Additional names were added by teams as and when necessary during the season.

Finally, Steve commented that there is now a wide pool of knowledge on the TTP within clubs. Further feedback is welcomed and this should be sent to Steve stephenbastow@talktalk.net or Jill jill.ingle@ntlworld.com

4.1.2 Rearrangement of fixtures: League rules state that matches are to be played on the date designated although clubs may reschedule fixtures up to 30th April. After this date permission to rearrange must be made to the League. However inability to raise a team is not cause to rearrange as matches can be played with a team fielding one pair.

-**Rawdon** (Sally Bickerton, by email) queried why they were refused permission to rearrange when unable to raise a team even though both captains were happy to do so. Rawdon were deducted a penalty point and the match was awarded to their opponents – "In our opinion the League should be all about playing tennis, not preventing fixtures from taking place. So we would like to propose a change to the appropriate rule that dictated this course of action. I believe there were other similar incidents in different leagues this year."

-**Boston Spa** reported that they had tried to rearrange a match before the start of the season but had difficulty contacting the captain of their opponents. The fixture was scheduled for a weekend and clashed with Yorkshire League matches. The match had to be conceded because a team could not be raised.

-After discussion the general consensus of the meeting was that it would be unsafe to give leeway to clubs on this matter and that it could be open to manipulation. It was noted that there was often difficulty in rescheduling matches which had to be abandoned due to bad light or inclement weather.

-Graham Bond suggested the committee would look further into the matter and if the outcome was that they saw a way of amending the current rules, providing some effective safeguards could be included, then they would circulate by email any rule change suggestions with sufficient notice to consider by Clubs prior to the AGM.

-If Sally Bickerton would like to contact Graham or Jill with further input on this issue, then she is welcome to do so.

4.1.3 Player Eligibility/Ratings: Players must be a bona fide member of the club they represent to be eligible to play. Unlike the Junior section there is no requirement for players to be a British Tennis Member or have a particular rating.

-**David Lloyd** reported that in a Ladies match national and county standard players had been fielded against them which they felt was unfair and against the spirit of the competition.

-**Wetherby** reported that some clubs with more than one team in the same competition use players in such a way as to maximise the benefit from fielding stronger players in lower ranked teams within the "3 matches" rule.

-One option could be the registration of squads of players prior to the start of the season.

-As not all adult players are BTM members it was felt that limits on ratings could not be applied.

-It was agreed that clubs should operate within the Rules and the Fairplay charter and that matches should be a pleasant experience for everybody.

-The committee will review the wording of the Fairplay charter on this matter.

4.2 Juniors: Charlie Tatman reported that overall the leagues went well but was again blighted by teams withdrawing/not fulfilling fixtures and the unpredictable weather.

-**U12's:** 7 teams entered but Sandal withdrew so only a small league with 5 matches for each team. **David Lloyd** won both the league and the Masters Cup.

-**U14's:** 7 teams entered and a third of matches not played. **Chapel Allerton** won the league and **David Lloyd** the Masters Cup.

U16's: 11 teams entered and a very good competition. Unfortunately David Lloyd and Wakefield withdrew.

Roundhay won the league and **Chapel Allerton** the Masters Cup.

-**Roundhay** commented that whilst matches start in May it can be difficult to fulfil fixtures scheduled in August due to school holidays.

- It was noted that fixture scheduling is based on the team entries received and that fixtures in August may be avoided if teams only enter knowing they can fulfil their matches.

5. Singles League Update

Charlie Tatman reported that the Singles league was proving popular.

-There are currently 71 active players and this could reach 100 by the start of the next round in January.

-Entries are welcomed from anyone over the age of 16 and of any playing level.

-There is a one-off £10 entry fee. An entry form is attached with the Minutes.

-Rounds are played over a 10 week period with up to 6 players in each group. The nominated "home" player arranges the court and the "away" player provides the balls. Players are encouraged to share indoor court costs.

-Results are emailed to Charlie and recorded on the TTP.

-Players do not have to be a club member but must have a BTM number and rating.

6. Winter League Update

Carol Cherry reported that following the pilot of the TTP in the 2010/11 season the system was now fully operational and the tables for this year are right up to date.

-2 clubs have withdrawn and been replaced by 2nd teams from Ilkley and St Chad's.

-Chapel Allerton retained the trophy.

-Carol confirmed that the league is self financing with an entry fee of £80 per team and match fees of £6 per player. The full report is attached with the Minutes.

7. Veterans League Update

Mike Green reported that 4 teams from Armley, Alwoodley and Wetherby entered for the first season of the new daytime, off-peak Vets league. Players must be 55 or over and pay £10 each to enter. Teams may consist of up to 3 players. More entries are encouraged and an entry form is attached with the Minutes.

-**Armley** and **Wetherby B** tied in first place and will share the trophy.

Dwight Brown advised that JCCS can now offer a discounted rate of £7.50 for court hire. This is only available to paid-up members of the Singles and Veterans leagues and the courts must be used before 4.30pm. Pre-booking is available on 0113 3950010.

-Armley TC is also able to offer its indoor court from the end of November. Contact Guy Smith on 07944381434 or guysmith11@hotmail.com for details.

8. Financial Update

Gary Williams reported that the League's finances are healthy with reserve funds of approx. £3000+.

-Income in 2011 consisted of £1200 from Summer, £720 from Singles and £110 from Veterans league entries.

-Expenditure is largely £700 to LCC for administration support through JCCS for the Junior and Singles leagues.

-The Winter league is self financing.

-Although expenditure on IT support and website development had not been at the level anticipated there is a need to hold funds on a contingency basis for this. The LTA may also charge for use of the TTP in the future.

-However the current view of the committee is that entry fees for Summer 2012 teams should be reduced slightly to £15 per adult team and £10 per Junior team and Graham suggested that Clubs should plan on this basis.

9. Rules and Fair Play

Graham Bond reported there had been an incident of verbal abuse in a match this summer resulting in player suspensions.

-The matter was dealt with quickly and fairly, with two players being suspended for 5 and 3 League matches respectively. However it highlighted that the Fair Play Charter is not part of the League Rules. It is therefore proposed to incorporate the Fair Play Charter into the Rules.

-Graham read through the proposal as issued prior to the meeting and incorporating a comment from Nick MacDonald, Armley TC.

Proposed: Graham Bond;

Seconded: Tony Wright, Wetherby; Christian Kaiser, Chapel Allerton; Sally Harris, Alwoodley

And agreed unanimously by the meeting

9. Officers for 2012

Graham Bond stressed that the committee all provided voluntary help in running the leagues. He acknowledged the initiative by Ken Walker and colleagues from St Chad's TC in stepping in to keep the League going. However he advised that Ken will be stepping down as Vice Chairman at the March 2012 AGM although he will continue on fixture generation.

-Graham also informed the meeting he would be happy to go for one further year in office but would then wish to step down as Chairman at the March 2013 AGM.

-Nominations for the roles of Vice President (vacant) and Vice Chairman are now sought. Appointments to these roles would ensure succession planning and the successful continuation of the League.

-He asked the meeting to discuss possible nominations for these posts within each club.

Please contact Graham on g.d.bond@btinternet.com for further information on the roles or to submit nominations.

-Graham also advised that Chris Wilkinson wishes to step down as Section coordinator of Mens divisions 1 & 2. He appealed for help from Ilkley or any of the other clubs competing in those divisions for the identification of a new section co-ordinator, asap so that a good handover from Chris can be undertaken.

-Volunteers are also sort to provide help to Steve Bastow with IT matters. Professional help may become necessary without this. Please contact Steve on stephenbastow@talktalk.net for further information.

10. Presentations of Awards

The following awards were presented to

Ladies Division 1: David Lloyd

Ladies Division 2: Whitkirk (not represented)

Ladies Division 3: Roundhay B

Medley: Grove Hill

Mixed Division 1: Chapel Allerton

Mixed Division 2: John Charles Centre

Mens Division 1: Ilkley A

Mens Division 2: Rawdon A

Mens Division 3: Horsforth

Mens Division 4: Adel B

Mens Division 5: Kirkstall

Winter League: Chapel Allerton

Veterans: Armley/Wetherby B

U16: Roundhay

The other Junior trophies were presented at the Masters Cups events.

All players were congratulated on a successful season and photos were taken of the presentations.

11. Any other Business

None arising

There being no further business Graham thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions. He thanked Chapel Allerton for hosting the meeting and reminded everyone that the bar was still open.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm.