

MINUTES OF THE AUTUMN GENERAL MEETING OF THE LEEDS TENNIS LEAGUE

HELD ON 15TH NOVEMBER 2010 AT CHAPEL ALLERTON TENNIS CLUB

Present Eighteen clubs were represented

Adel: G Bond, G Williams, J Micklethwaite, R Garlick

Alwoodley: S Harris

Armley: J Pritchard

Bardsey: J Howes, D Sivey

Boston Spa: T Baker, W Zeigler

Chapel Allerton: C Kaiser, S Smith

David Lloyd: M Gill

Grove Hill: H Dove, L Ashworth

Horsforth: H West

Ilkley: C Wilkinson

John Charles: C Tatman

Kirkstall: A Bailey

Rawdon: M Martindale, J Sowden

Roundhay: S Brittain, C Harper

St Chad's: J Ingle, K Wignall

Wakefield: S Bastow

Wetherby: T Wright

Whitkirk: K Sherburn, M Stearman

Committee: Graham Bond, Chairman; Jill Ingle, Secretary; Gary Williams, Treasurer; Janet Pritchard, Mixed/Medley Section; Susan Smith, Ladies Section; Charlie Tatman, Junior Section; Chris Wilkinson, Mens Section

Auditor: Barry Wilkinson

Carnegie, Georgian, Heaton, North Leeds, Pool and Sandal 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:

Adel: T Wade; **Alwoodley:** D Corscadden, S Donaghy; **Armley:** C Scott, N McDonald; **Carnegie:** L Assioun; **Chapel Allerton:** S Miller; **David Lloyd:** S Shipley; **John Charles:** D Brown; **North Leeds:** B Addlestone; **Roundhay:** L Bowman; **Sandal:** A Cole; **Wakefield:** D Burton; **Whitkirk:** W Swainston

Committee: Ken Walker, Deputy Chairman; Carol Cherry, Winter League; Penny Rice, Fixtures

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the AGM held at Armley TC on Monday 1st March 2010 were accepted and approved.

Proposed: Kath Sherburn, Whitkirk; **Seconded:** John Micklethwaite, Adel

3. Matters Arising

Matters arising will be dealt with under agenda items.

4. Report on Summer League 2010

4.1 Ladies: Susan Smith reminded captains to be aware of the rules especially in regard to the re-arrangement of matches after the 30th April deadline. Teams should also be aware of the dates and start times of fixtures. Congratulations to David Lloyd on winning Division 1 and to Wetherby on winning Division 2.

4.2 Mixed/Medley: Janet Pritchard reported that

-In Mixed Division 1 one match was forfeited and all others were completed on the dates allocated.

-In Mixed Division 2 a number of matches had to be re-arranged due to the weather. Two matches were forfeited.

-In the Medley all matches were played but some were not completed due to bad light. Janet reminded captains that for the 9 sets the total points should add up to 18. She also asked captains to send scorecards in promptly and to discard any old ones with Janine Johnson's name on.

4.3 Mens: Chris Wilkinson and Charlie Tatman reported that all seemed to have gone well with the two section coordinators liaising as necessary.

4.4 Juniors: Charlie Tatman reported that most matches were played. Unfortunately the JCCS U16 team had to withdraw before the start of the season. Boston Spa also had a few problems in fulfilling fixtures.

-The **LTA software** had been used this year with captains responsible for inputting results and managing team profiles. The user guide issued was well received although there have been a few teething problems. Generally the system worked well and tables were kept constantly up to date.

-The **Masters Cup** was a new initiative this year with the top 8 teams in each age group invited to compete. The U12 & U14 events have taken place with 4 teams taking part, with Chapel Allerton winning both competitions. The U16 event will be this Saturday, also with 4 teams competing. Positive feedback has been received. Charlie will set the dates for 2011 at the start of next season. He is hopeful of getting the top 8 teams in each age group to take part. Presentations have been made to the league and cup winners where possible. Unfortunately the U12 trophy has not yet been returned by Chapel Allerton.

-The club who has won the Fair Play Shield has yet to be determined.

5. Winter League Update

5.1 2009/10: Graham Bond and Jill Ingle reported on behalf of Carol Cherry

-Congratulations to Chapel Allerton who won the league and remained unbeaten throughout the season.

-In Division II Grove Hill finished top and have gained promotion.

-A special mention goes to Georgian who finished above the bottom spot for the first time ever.

5.2 2010/11:

-Despite their success Georgian did not re-enter. In order to maintain 8 teams in each division Chapel Allerton were invited to enter a second team.

-Going forward if another club wishes to enter Chapel Allerton 2 will withdraw.

-There has been an increase in fees charged by LMU. This has been offset by an increase in subscriptions.

-There have been some teething problems with the use of the LTA software including lack of LTA affiliation codes, BTM membership numbers and inability of captains to input, verify and modify results. As a result the league tables are currently incomplete.

It is hoped that all problems will be overcome by the second half of the season.

-Steve Bastow said that the feedback would be taken on board and instructions for using the system would be revisited prior to its introduction for the Summer leagues.

6. Financial Update

Gary Williams reported that the league is in a stronger financial position than 2009 with £5k currently held in the bank.

6.1 Income from subscriptions has increased. Entry fees for the Summer league were increased by 5% with the level of entries being maintained. The Singles league has been re-introduced with participants paying a one-off entry fee. The Winter league is self funding.

No further increase in subscription rates is anticipated.

The main items of expenditure this year will be £700 to Leeds City Council for administration costs and £1340 to Carnegie for Winter league costs.

6.2 There is a provision of £1800 for IT/website developments. These funds will be held in reserve towards future league developments and other competitions/tournaments. (See 7.1 below)

6.3 Barry Wilkinson will undertake an audit of the accounts at the year end.

7. IT/Website Developments

7.1 Steve Bastow and Graham Bond reported that

-At the time of the 2010 AGM, the capability of the website and the requirements to interface with the LTA software had not been fully understood. It had been anticipated that consultant advice and website hosting may be needed in order to ensure compatibility with the LTA software.

-However Steve had now been able to make the necessary changes to the website functionality negating the need for involvement by Rochester Associates as proposed at the AGM.

-The Junior leagues and Winter leagues are using the software, generally successfully, and this has been achieved at no cost to the Leeds Tennis League.

7.2 The LTA may introduce a user charge for the software in the future but this is being resisted by Gavin Sutcliffe of the YLTA.

7.3 Graham Bond raised for consideration:

- The possibility of the summer season handbook not being produced as a hard copy in 2011. Instead the rules, club addresses, captain's contact details and fixtures could all be made available via the website.

-Fixture generation will remain manual as at present as the requirements are too complex for the LTA software.

- But that Captains will be asked to become responsible for recording and verifying results using the LTA software via the League website.

Jill Ingle will contact captains by email regarding proposals on the transition to the LTA software.

7.4 Clubs are invited to email Steve Bastow with feedback on the content of the website:

stephenbastow@talktalk.net

8. Future League Developments

8.1 Mixed/Medley Sections: Jill Ingle reported that

-The Mixed, since 1964, and the Medley, since 1982, were the first competitions to be run by the League. However there are now just 10 teams in the Mixed and 5 teams in the Medley. Unless this minimum number is maintained it may not be feasible to continue to run these competitions.

The Mixed is played with 2 pairs. The Medley provides a mixture of Mens, Ladies and Mixed play. Teams consist of 4 Men and 2 Ladies.

-Prior to the meeting Jill Ingle had sought feedback from the Mixed and Medley team captains. Jill reported that:

Armley – had entered the Mixed in 2010 and thought the format worked well. They would struggle to play any format requiring 6 players. The Medley might attract more teams if just 4 players were needed.

Boston Spa – like the Medley format as they have more men than ladies wanting team play. They would be looking to enter a league in 2011 with the squad used in the Medley in 2010. This could be the Leeds or Barkston Ash League as they have the capacity to field 6 players per match. A tournament would not be attractive.

Grove Hill – are keen to retain the Medley and would support a tournament to try and boost interest in the format.

Horsforth – are considering entering the Medley as opposed to the Mixed in 2011.

-The meeting considered that creating one division in the Mixed was not workable due to the distinct difference in standard between the top and bottom teams.

Roundhay, who had not re-entered the Mixed in 2010, are considering entering a third Ladies team. This could mean 17 teams in total and the need for a third division. It was felt that fewer Ladies matches may enable lady players to be available for more Mixed/Medley matches as well.

-Clubs are invited to email Jill Ingle with further feedback and expressions of interest in the Mixed and Medley formats: jill.ingle@ntlworld.com .

-The nature and formats of competitions to be offered by the League will be agreed at the AGM based on the entries received.

8.2 Veterans: Graham Bond proposed

-The introduction of a daytime, weekday competition for players aged 55 and over. It was felt this could be done without impacting on court time or drawing players away from the evening leagues. The LTA software would be used as per the Singles league.

-Various formats were possible: - 1 x double pairs (4 players); 2 x double pairs (8 players); 2 pair medley format (2 men, 2 lady players per team).

-The competition could operate all year round with indoor courts hire potentially available from JCCS, Ilkley, Chapel Allerton and Armley.

-Clubs are invited to email Jill Ingle with feedback on these proposals, preferably this side of Christmas: jill.ingle@ntlworld.com

- The Committee will develop the Vets idea further and will report back to Clubs at the AGM.

8.3 Singles: Charlie Tatman reported that the Singles league was proving popular.

-It began in April with 36 players. The number of entries has continually risen and is likely to reach 50+ by Christmas.

-Entries are welcomed from anyone over the age of 16. There is a one-off £10 entry fee.

-Entry forms can be accessed via the website or email charles.tatman@leeds.gov.uk

-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 LTA software system.

9. Officers for 2011

Graham thanked the committee for their work in 2010 and was pleased to report that the team would continue in 2011. Positions would be confirmed at the AGM in March.

He encouraged offers of support for the section co-ordinators and also with Steve on IT developments.

10. Presentations of Awards

Section Co-ordinators presented awards to

Ladies Division 1: David Lloyd

Ladies Division 2: Wetherby

Medley: Grove Hill

Mixed Division 1: David Lloyd

Mixed Division 2: Horsforth

Mens Division 1: Ilkley A

Mens Division 2: Chapel Allerton B

Mens Division 3: Boston Spa B

Mens Division 4: Horsforth

Winter League: Chapel Allerton

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

11. Any other Business

11.1 Fundraising for Clubs: Sean Brittain, Roundhay, outlined an online fundraising opportunity for clubs which can be accessed through the website www.easyfundraising.org.uk. Please see attached for details and contact Sean in the event of queries. By using the link provided Roundhay will benefit from a referral fee. This could also apply to your club if you wish to set up similar.

11.2 Cardio Tennis: A training course for coaches is being held at JCCS on 10th December. Cardio tennis is a high intensity cardio workout delivered on a tennis court. It is set to music and the aim is to improve skills and fitness in a fun way. Coaches are invited to attend the course which lasts for 6 hours and costs £30. Please contact/register with Charlie charles.tatman@leeds.gov.uk.

There being no further business Graham thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions. He also thanked Susan Smith and Chapel Allerton for hosting the meeting and reminded everyone that the bar was still open. The meeting closed at 9.35pm.