



LEEDS TENNIS LEAGUE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD MONDAY 12TH MARCH 2012, STARTING AT 8PM
AT
ADEL TENNIS CLUB

Graham Bond (GB) in the Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

GB then went through the attendance list to see how many clubs were represented and concluded that there were 17 out of the possible 22 tennis clubs with representatives at the meeting, therefore we were quorate.

Those in attendance being:

1. Adel – Gill Peddar, John Micklethwaite, Gary Williams, GB
2. Armley – Nick McDonald
3. Alwoodley - Sally Harris
4. Chapel Allerton – Kasia Hiorns, Susan Smith
5. David Lloyd – Marie Gill
6. Grove Hill, Otley – Hilary Dove
7. Horsforth – Jo Bailey
8. Kirkstall– Ross Bibby
9. Ilkley – Steve Baker
10. JCCS – Dwight Brown, Charlie Tatman
11. Pool - James Kerr
12. Rawdon – Matt Martindale
13. Roundhay – Cath Brittain, Chris Harper
14. St Chad's – Penny Rice, Karen Wignall
15. Whitkirk – Mary Stearman, Kath Sherburn, Oliver Walsh
16. Wakefield - Steve Bastow
17. Wetherby – Tony Wright, Mike Green

GB also apologised that he was taking some antibiotics at the time and if he suddenly disappeared out of the room it was a reflection of that and nothing to do with what was being said! Gary Williams agreed to take over the chairing in the event that GB was absent for some minutes.

1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The first person to mention is Jill Ingle, our League Secretary, whose father is ill and so she is away looking after him. We send our best wishes to her and her father.

Therefore Minutes would be taken collectively by GB, Gary Williams and also from those in attendance and John Micklethwaite of Adel TC kindly volunteered to take notes. GB gave his thanks to those people.

GB went through a list of apologies received including:-

Adel – Tony Wade
Alwoodley – Elspeth Bottone, Steven Donnelly
Armley – Rachel McDonald, Janet Pritchard
Bardsey – Julian Howes
Boston Spa – Alasdair Rattray, Trevor Hughes, Nicky Pagett, Will Zeigler
Chapel Allerton – Christian Kaiser
David Lloyd – Claire Johnson
Grove Hill - Carol Cherry, Lynne Ashworth
Ilkley – Bill Murfitt

JCCS – Rashida Salloo
Kirkstall – Andrew Bradley
Pool – Sam Armitage
Rawdon – Matt Martindale
Roundhay – Stephen Ball
St Chad’s – Ken Walker, Jill Ingle
Wetherby – Bev Lyn

2) MINUTES OF THE 7TH NOVEMBER 2011 AUTUMN GENERAL MEETING

GB asked the meeting whether they were happy with those Minutes as written up and that they correctly portrayed the discussions and the meeting and the decisions as made.

All agreed that these Minutes correctly reflected the business undertaken at the Autumn GM.

On that basis Graham Bond signed the Minutes at the Meeting, dating them 12th March 2012.

3) MATTERS ARISING

GB suggested that all the points as in the November Autumn General Meeting would be picked up under the Agenda points for tonight and suggested we take the Agenda points and build those aspects into the discussion.

All were agreed that that was a good way to proceed.

4) WINTER LEAGUE 2011/12 REPORT

GB gave apologies for absence for Carol Cherry, the Section Co-ordinator and then proceeded to mention the key points raised in Carol’s report to him, they being:

- a) The two divisions of the Winter League at Carnegie are running smoothly and, as at early March for Division 1, it looks like a two horse race for the title, between the holders Chapel Allerton and rivals Roundhay.
- b) Promotion to Division 1 seems to be between three teams, David Lloyd, Adel and St Chad’s “A” team.
- c) With some changes of team captains, there had been some delays with player and results input and the request is that all team captains do submit this information on a timely basis.
- d) The teams were reminded in Carol’s report that penalty charges of £24 per team are payable if a team fails to turn up on the night for a planned fixture.
- e) The League had been running a small deficit for the last two years on club fees collected and it will be proposed tonight that the team entry fee increase by £4 to a total of £84 so that this deficit is eliminated.
- f) GB also noted that there were three clubs in the Winter Leagues that now have two teams. The wish of the League is still to encourage new clubs to enter and so if a Club is interested in entering a team, then please consult with Carol by early summer – and of course if teams from new clubs enter then one of the second teams of the three clubs would have to drop out accordingly, and that this is understood by those clubs as that was the basis of them joining the League at that time.
- g) Carol has suggested that the Winter League for 2012/13 will be the last time she runs it as Section Co-ordinator and therefore a second person should be brought in this summer to help on the set-up and the running of the 2012/13 League.

ACTION: GB/JI to circulate the clubs requesting for a new Section Co-ordinator for the Winter League.

5) JUNIOR LEAGUE REPORT

- a) Charlie Tatman (CT) reported that the Junior League’s in summer 2011 season had gone very well.
- b) At this stage although he hasn’t got the full breakdown of new entries for Summer 2012 Juniors, CT suggested that there would be about 8 club teams in the Under 12s and Under 14s and about 10 in the Under 16s.

- c) CT reported that the Masters Playoff competition in September last year had worked well with cup prizes being given to the top 4 teams and that he would be doing this format again this September with dates being in the second or third week in September.
- d) CT asked Junior captains and organisers to ensure they have enough team players in their junior squads (he suggested at least 6 per team are required) and that they should have their BTM numbers and ratings at hand so as to input into the LTA system.
- e) CT said he would circulate the age requirements of what are Under 12 and Under 14 permissible and that they would be based on the LTA criteria of the age at the end of a rating season.
- f) CT mentioned about his role changing at JCCS and that there will be a need for more volunteer help to get alongside him for running the Juniors.

ACTION: GB asked club representatives at the meeting to consider who at their clubs could help on the junior leagues.

In addition GB/JI will email out to club chairpersons and/or secretaries asking for them to identify junior league volunteers.

6) SINGLES LEAGUE REPORT

- a) CT reported that it was going very well with about 80 players participating and that the number was still rising with each new division.
- b) New divisions are being held every three months and anyone not playing is soon weeded out so that new people on the waiting list can then come in.
- c) CT had no other points to report on the Singles League.

7) VETERANS LEAGUE

- a) Mike Green (MG) reported that the number of teams participating, at three, is still very low and that more teams are welcome to join.
- b) Discussion was then held on whether to reduce the entry fee so as to encourage more people. **It was then agreed by all at the Meeting that the fee should go down from £10 per person to £5 per person.**
- c) In addition, **it was proposed and agreed by those at the Meeting to bring down the minimum age to anyone over the age of 50, both ladies and men being eligible.**
- d) So in summary, the League now has a veteran's doubles competition that runs during the week at off peak hours and that the eligible age is now 50 and over and the joining fees are now cut by half.

ACTION: GB/JI undertook to publicise this further by sending an email flyer to clubs to put on notice boards.

GB and MG asked people in attendance at the Meeting to take this message of reduced age and fees requirement back to their clubs.

8) IT AND WEBSITE MATTERS (PREVIOUS AGENDA ITEM 12)

GB suggested that the meeting take Agenda Item 11, IT and website matters next.

Steve Bastow (SB) gave a report under these headings, saying that:

- a) The League's use of LTA software was working well and that last year, the first year of implementation, had gone pretty well.
- b) He thanked captains as the inputters of results and of player details for mainly submitting these items on time and asked that they continue to do so in a timely manner for summer 2012 season.
- c) For IT of the Winter League, SB reported it was going well. SB mentioned that if there is a change of captain there is also a need to transfer the user passwords for that team captain across to the new user. He had a similar point to make for the summer league change of team captains.

- d) Steve said he will pre-load as much as possible the existing player names by the start of the summer 2012 sessions, and that he will also contact JI to ensure the contact details for team captains are correct and up to date.
- e) Other than that, SB said, on the whole, things are going very well and that he was pleased to have had the additional support from Steve Cordingley and Mike Green.
- f) GB thanked the two Steve's and Mike for their help and said that it had been really good given over the last 12 months there's been so much to do on IT.

9) FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS 2011 AND TREASURER'S REPORT

Gary Williams (GW), Hon. Treasurer, reported on these items as follows:

- a) For the 2011 Accounts at last year's Autumn General Meeting it was agreed that there was no need to go find an external auditor. Consequently GW had prepared the accounts and GB as Chairman had also reviewed and passed comment. It is those Accounts that are now presented to the Meeting.
- b) GW explained the receipts received under their various headings as well as the expenditure items as shown on the one page Income & Expenditure Account.
- c) GW said that the League now has a small surplus for the year which then adds to the carried forward surpluses to give approx. £3,100 as surplus to immediate needs.
- d) GW also talked through the items on the balance sheet and said that there is currently in the bank about £5,800 credit but of that £1,800 is still held back relating to the IT fund.
- e) GW then asked the Meeting whether there were any questions - and there were none arising.
- f) **With everyone at the Meeting then happy with the accounts as shown, the accounts were then approved by all and GB as Chairman signed the top copy and gave back to GW for safe keeping.**
- g) GW then made further comment as follows:
 - i) Winter League: GW touched on the increase of £4 to clubs for the next Winter League, as GB had reported earlier.
 - ii) For Summer League entry fees, given the cash balance, it is proposed that the Summer League entry fees be £15 for Seniors and £10 for Junior teams, i.e. a reduction from last year.
 - iii) For IT, currently we rely on voluntary help and this has saved us a lot of money - but of course the situation may change, hence we will keep back the £1,800 IT funds.
 - iv) (and GB also suggested that perhaps this £1,800 fund could be widened out to include possible legal and constitutional changes if ever the League wanted to go to the next stage of becoming a formal entity such as a Company Limited by Guarantee.)

ACTION: GB said he would look at this item (iv) and report back at the next Autumn General Meeting.

Those at the Meeting were happy with these additional comments and proposed fees for the Summer League 2012 and Winter League 2012/13.

All agreed that GW should work on the 2012 budget based on these financial assumptions.

10) RULES AND CONSTITUTION

Three changes to the Summer League Rules were proposed:

- a) Medley Matches:
 - i) The following rule change as drafted by JI in consultation with Janet Pritchard, Section Co-ordinator of Medley and team captains was as follows:

Rule 1

"In the Medley Division, a team shall comprise 4 men and 2 women, who shall each play 3 rubbers against the opposing team: 4 Men's Doubles, 4 Mixed Doubles and 1 Ladies Doubles.

Each rubber shall comprise one set, to be the best of 12 games (for clubs with two courts) or the best of 16 games (for clubs with 3 courts). The rubber is completed if one pair has reached 7 games (2 courts) or 9 games

(3 courts). **A tie-break will be played at 6 games all (two courts) or 8 games all (3 courts) with the winning team being the first to 7 points."**

- ii) **The meeting discussed with those people present involved with Medley and it was agreed "a tie break will be played at six games all (two courts) or 8 games all (three courts) with the winning team being the first to 7 points**

b) LTA Affiliation and Third Party Liability Insurance:

- i) GB referred to the note as circulated to all clubs two weeks prior to the AGM and said it is now important to have insurance cover in place by all tennis clubs playing in the League, either through their LTA Affiliation or, if not affiliated, directly with an insurance company.
- ii) GB said that the League will check that insurance cover is in place at the beginning of each season and that all team entries will now be subject to this condition.
- iii) If a club were found to not have the insurance cover, any matches played in that period will be deemed null and void until the required insurance has been confirmed as in place.

These proposals were put to the Meeting and all agreed that they should be adopted by all clubs.

c) Club Facilities and Court Surfaces:

- i) GB referred again to the note as circulated 2 weeks prior to the AGM, with the second point included in that note of ensuring clubs maintain court surfaces properly and that nets are in a good state of repair, and that basically the courts and the changing facilities of that club are 'fit for the purpose' of playing competitive League tennis matches.
- ii) GB also referred to the proposal that team captains of visiting clubs should report any issues arising from club facilities and courts to the Section Co-ordinator in the first instance and that the Chairman and Secretary of the League undertook to investigate if deemed necessary.
- iii) In addition, GB pointed out the proposal that if the courts of a club were found to be unfit for purpose then the League could rule that any remaining "home" fixtures of that club were played at an alternative venue until such time as the court conditions had been rectified.

These proposals were put to the Meeting and were duly agreed unanimously by those present.

11) ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

GB reported on the current status of the Committee as follows:

- a) GB as Chairman is happy to continue for 1 more year to the next AGM in March 2013. He reminded the meeting that he had flagged this at the Autumn General meeting last November. So a new Chairman will soon be required.
- b) Ken Walker (KW) as Deputy Chairman has now stood down. As flagged at the Autumn General meeting and flagged again now, we have an immediate vacancy for a new Deputy Chairman.
- c) JI has confirmed her willingness to continue as League Hon Secretary.
- d) Similarly, GW gave his ok for continuing as League Hon Treasurer.
- e) Other members of the Committee, SB on IT, Susan Smith for the Ladies Leagues, Dwight Brown for Men's 3 ,4 and 5 and Janet Pritchard all gave their willingness to continue.
- f) As reported above, there will be a need to have new Section Co-ordinators for:
 - i) the Winter League;
 - ii) the Junior Leagues; and
 - iii) the Men's Divisions 1 and 2 summer leagues - Chris Wilkinson has now stepped down from the Committee and so there is a vacancy immediately - This is the most urgent role vacancy of them all and must be resolved by April. GB said if no-one did come forward to volunteer then there would be a delay in starting the Men's 1 and 2 this May.

- g) Ken Walker and Penny Rice have also agreed to continue with the fixture planning for this Summer 2012. However, they may wish to have further help for 2013 given they may wish to stand down.

ACTION: Members at the meeting should take the message back to their clubs that we urgently need a Men's 1 and 2 Section Co-ordinator and that very soon we will need a new Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Section Co-ordinators for Juniors and the Winter Leagues.

On all people at the Meeting plus those not attending, to help progress this since the running of the League is all reliant on voluntary people.

In addition GB/JI will circulate Chairmen and secretaries asking for volunteers to be found in their clubs in these roles.

12) SUMMER LEAGUE ENTRANTS/FORMAT/POLICIES FOR 2012

- a) This point was to determine for Summer 2012:
- i) New teams/withdrawals
 - ii) League Entrants and Divisions, including those promoted and those relegated
 - iii) Fixture Planning Issues.
- b) GW led this agenda item given JI was not at the meeting.
A total of 92 teams have entered, a net increase of 2
- c) GW went through the flip chart proposals for the divisions and the following promotions (P) and relegations (R) was agreed:

Mens:

Grove Hill B and Whitkirk B are new entrants; Georgian has withdrawn giving a total of 32 teams

Div 1	Div 2	Div 3	Div 4	Div 5
Ilkley A	Alwoodley A (R)	Roundhay A (R)	JCCS (R)	Wetherby (R)
Adel A	Bardsey (R)	St Chad's A	Ilkley C	Alwoodley B
Boston Spa A	Boston Spa B	Ch Allerton B	Wakefield B	Alwoodley C
Whitkirk A	Wakefield A	Roundhay B	Kirkstall (P)	Ch Allerton C
Ch Allerton A	Pool A	Adel B (P)	St Chad's B (P)	Grove Hill B
Rawdon A (P)	Horsforth (P)	Rawdon B (P)	Pool B (P)	Whitkirk B
Ilkley B (P)	Grove Hill A (P)			

Ladies:

Alwoodley B, David Lloyd B and Roundhay D are new entrants; Georgian has withdrawn giving a total of 20 teams.

Div 1	Div 2	Div 3
David Lloyd A	Wetherby (R)	Pool
Roundhay A	Ch Allerton B	JCCS
Ch Allerton A	Kirkstall	Roundhay C
Adel	Armley	David Lloyd B
Horsforth	Roundhay B	Roundhay B
Whitkirk (P)	Alwoodley A (P)	Wakefield
St Chad's (P)	Alwoodley B (P)	

Mixed:

Wetherby (who withdrew before playing in 2011) and Adel B have not re-entered giving a total of 8 teams.

Div 1	Div 2
Ch Allerton	Rawdon (R)
David Lloyd	Armley
JCCS (P)	Horsforth
St Chad's (P)	Adel

For fixture planning it was agreed that teams would play each other 3 times so there would be a total of 9 matches each.

Medley:

No change, 5 teams in total being:

Boston Spa, Grove Hill, Kirkstall, Pool and St Chad's

Juniors:

U16: Teams from Boston Spa, Heaton, Wakefield and Wetherby have been replaced by new entries from Grove Hill and Pool making 10 teams in total.

U14: The Boston Spa team has been replaced by new entries from Alwoodley and Whitkirk making 9 teams in total.

U12: The Boston Spa team has been replaced by new entries from JCCS, Pool and Wetherby making 9 teams in total.

13) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Given much had been discussed above and it had just turned 10pm, GB asked if there were any matters arising but did remind people of the time.

Accordingly no one at the Meeting had any further AOB points arising and so the meeting closed at approx 10.10 pm.

GB thanked everyone for coming and wished all a safe journey home and happy tennis playing in the summer.