



LEEDS TENNIS LEAGUE
AUTUMN GENERAL MEETING
HELD MONDAY 19TH NOVEMBER 2012, STARTING AT 8PM
AT
CHAPEL ALLERTON 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 18 out of the possible 22 tennis clubs with representatives at the meeting, therefore we were quorate.

Those in attendance being:

1. Adel –John Micklethwaite, Gary Williams (GW), GB
2. Alwoodley - Sally Harris
3. Armley – Kate Hoggard, Rachel McDonald, Lynne Pearson, Gill Pedder, Janet Pritchard (JP), Carol Scott
4. Bardsey – Julian Howes
5. Chapel Allerton – Daniel Chubb, Susan Smith (SS)
6. David Lloyd – Gillie Bailey, Heather Butterworth, Marie Gill
7. Grove Hill, Otley – Lynne Ashworth, Hilary Dove
8. Horsforth – Hillary West
9. Ilkley – Carol Cherry (CC)
10. Kirkstall– Alan Bailey
11. JCCS –Charlie Tatman (CT)
12. Pool – Andrea Scott, David Scott
13. Rawdon – Matt Martindale
14. Roundhay –Chris Harper, Ann Sedivy, Steph Stockwell
15. St Chad's – Jill Ingle (JI), Ken Walker
16. Whitkirk – Stuart Eddison, Mary Stearman
17. Wakefield - Steve Bastow (SB), David Burton
18. Wetherby –Mike Green (MG), Ian Teasdale

GB paid tribute to Chris Leggatt who died suddenly in September. Chris had been Chairman of Pool TC for many years and was a regular attendee of LTL meetings. **GB** offered condolences to Chris's family, and in particular his daughter Andrea who was in attendance at the meeting, and to Pool TC.

His contribution to Pool TC and the LTL will be greatly missed.

1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

GB went through a list of apologies received including:-

Armley – Nick McDonald
Carnegie – Louise Assioun
Chapel Allerton – Waseem Basher, Christian Kaiser
David Lloyd – Clare Johnson
Ilkley – Steve Baker, Teresa Whittle
Wetherby – Bev Lyn
Whitkirk – Kath Sherburn, Oliver Walsh

2) MINUTES OF THE 12TH MARCH 2012 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

Jl apologised for and noted minor corrections and omissions to the Minutes as recorded. These being:

Minute 11e): Should have recorded Janet Pritchard as Mixed and Medley Section Co-ordinator

Minute 12 Ladies: Wakefield should have been recorded as new entrants and not Alwoodley B

Minute 12 Ladies: Division 3 Roundhay D should have been recorded and not Roundhay B

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

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

Proposed: Mary Stearman, Whitkirk Seconded: Ken Walker, St Chad's

3) MATTERS ARISING

a) **GB** reported that of the 5 teams in the Medley Section only 2 teams fully completed their fixtures. At times during the season the other 3 clubs had trouble raising teams and were deducted penalty points as a result.

GB asked those captains and club representatives present for their views.

- Lynne Ashworth, Grove Hill; Alan Bailey, Kirkstall and Jill Ingle on behalf of St Chad's all said it was their intention to enter teams in 2013.
- Andrea Scott, Pool said their future involvement would depend on membership levels.
- Boston Spa were not represented.

GB suggested, and the meeting agreed, that a minimum of 4 teams would be needed to make the competition viable. He asked those clubs currently involved to provide feedback to **JJ** by the end of December and the continuation of the Medley competition would be reviewed at the AGM in March.

b) **GB** suggested that all other the points in the AGM would be picked up under the Agenda points for the meeting and suggested these aspects were built into the discussion.

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

Action: Clubs to confirm their intention to enter the Medley competition and that they have sufficient players by email by end of December to JJ.

4) SUMMER LEAGUE 2012 REPORT

GB presented a brief summary of the summer season and reported

a) There had been no major issues regarding unfair play of unsportsmanlike behaviour. He reminded all players to be respectful to opponents when playing matches.

b) The weather had affected a number of fixtures and also that some clubs had difficulties raising teams. He reminded captains that fielding one pair, though not ideal, was always an option in these circumstances.

c) There were no significant issues with the use of the LTA software. He reminded users to enter and confirm results promptly. He pointed out that the system relies on accurate self reporting and that it was prudent for both captains to keep a hard copy of results in the event of queries.

GB expressed thanks to Steve Bastow, Mike Green, and Steve Cordingley for their help and support throughout the year.

John Micklethwaite, Adel, asked that player names are obtained at the match and recorded properly on the software. **GB** confirmed that Section Co-ordinators can make changes where necessary.

4.1 Ladies Section:

Susan Smith (**SS**) emphasised the need for a volunteer to replace her as Section co-ordinator. She was concerned that having emailed all Ladies captains she had not received a single reply.

SS explained that the role was straightforward and that she would be willing to work alongside her successor to ensure a smooth handover.

The 2012 results were reported:

	Div 1	Div 2	Div 3
Winners	David Lloyd	Armley	Roundhay D
Runners up	Chapel Allerton A	Roundhay B	Roundhay C

SS congratulated all teams on a successful season. Results had been promptly input with few queries arising. She asked captains to use the comment box on the LTA website rather than email when communicating information about fixtures or results as these could be acted upon directly on the software.

4.2 Mens Section:

In the absence of Oliver Walsh and Dwight Brown, **GB** reported that the season had gone well. This was confirmed by those captains present.

Stuart Eddison, Whitkirk B, noted that the revised date for a rescheduled fixture in Div 5 was not changed on the LTA website.

4.3 Mixed/Medley:

Janet Pritchard (**JP**) reported the 2012 results:

	Div 1	Div 2	Medley
Winners	Chapel Allerton	Rawdon	Grove Hill
Runners up	JCCS	Adel	St Chad's

JP asked each captain to take a scoresheet to matches and complete fully, including player names. This would ensure correct recording of results and keep queries to a minimum. She also asked captains to keep her advised of changes to contact details to aid communications. Finally **JP** asked that dates for matches rearranged due to the weather are reported promptly.

4.4 Juniors:

Charlie Tatman (**CT**) reported that the season had gone well again. He asked that all clubs carefully consider they had sufficient players to run a team. There had again been incidences of teams withdrawing just before the season started. This caused time to be wasted pre-season on league set up and fixture generation.

CT reported that Chapel Allerton swept the board in all junior competitions apart from U14 Masters Cup which was won by Roundhay.

CT announced that Adel won the Fair Play award having received the majority of votes from other clubs.

Finally **CT** confirmed that he was standing down as Junior section co-ordinator following his change of role at Leeds City Council. A volunteer is urgently sought to take over the role.

GB expressed his thanks to Susan and Charlie for their help in running the leagues. This was followed by a round of applause from the meeting.

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

Volunteers urgently needed if these competitions are to continue.

5) SINGLES LEAGUE REPORT

CT reported that the Singles League continues to run well with just under 100 players currently involved. Rounds are played over 3 months with 10-12 new entries each time. Players not fulfilling their matches are removed.

CT confirmed that he has stepped down as Singles co-ordinator and introduced his replacement to the meeting— Gillie Bailey. Gillie can be contact on bayles3@hotmail.com

Players should continue to use the existing singles link on the LTA website for results reporting.

6) WINTER LEAGUE REPORT

Carol Cherry (CC) reported:

a) For the third year in succession Chapel Allerton won the title in 2011/12 though in a very close contest by 1 point from Roundhay. Grove Hill is the only other club to achieve this feat since the league began in 1999.

b) The 2012-13 season is underway with both divisions operating well. This is now the third year using the LTA software. Fewer reminders have been needed about inputting results though there have been more difficulties inputting players.

c) There are 16 places available and these get snapped up quickly though the number of 2nd teams has increased to 3 due to some clubs choosing not to re-enter. Unfortunately the entry from Rawdon was received after the deadline and they were unable to be included. GB confirmed that Rawdon would be very welcomed back next season.

Matt Martindale, Rawdon, asked whether more than 16 places could be made available. CC said she was speaking to Leeds Carnegie and other indoor providers and that there may be capacity to increase the number of teams in the future.

Ken Walker, St. Chad's expressed concern at the shortage of indoor facilities generally. He felt that extending the Winter League would cut down on the opportunities for non Winter League clubs and players to book courts.

CT said that JCCS would be very reluctant to take away public access to courts.

d) Currently there is automatic promotion for the top 2 teams at Christmas and April. This has led to 2 teams from the same club being in the same division. CC questioned whether 2nd teams should be promoted to Division 1 and whether there should be different rules for Division 1 and 2? Ideally the competition would run with 16 teams, all from different clubs so as to keep variety and spread amongst the clubs of the Leeds League.

The meeting agreed that new clubs wishing to enter would replace another clubs lowest ranked 2nd team. It was also agreed that 2nd teams can go up to the top division even if their 1st team is already there.

e) As reported at the AGM, CC reiterated her intention to stand down as section co-ordinator after the end of the current season.

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

A volunteer is urgently needed if the competition is to continue.

7) VETERANS LEAGUE REPORT

Mike Green (MG) reported that the number of teams participating is still very low and that more teams are encouraged to join. Four teams competed in the summer league being Alwoodley, Kirkstall and Wetherby A & B.

Wetherby B won the summer league.

The Winter league is about to start with a new team from Horsforth replacing Alwoodley.

MG reminded the meeting that the competition runs during the week at off peak hours and that the eligible age is now 50 and over and the joining fees are £5 per team.

ACTION: GB and MG asked the Meeting to encourage new entrants from within their clubs.

8) FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS AND TREASURER'S REPORT

Gary Williams (GW), Hon. Treasurer, reported:

a) The League now has a small surplus for the year which then adds to the carried forward surpluses to give approx. £5,000 as surplus to immediate needs.

- b) Funds are held back for IT needs and the likelihood that LTA will charge for software usage though this is a minimal charge of 2euros per team.
- c) For 2013 Summer League entry fees given the cash balance, **GW** proposed that the Summer League entry fees be held at existing levels of £15 for Adult and £10 for Junior teams. There may be scope to reduce entry fees in future years if surplus funds continue to be retained.
- d) The fee of £700 paid to LCC for the support on Juniors and Singles will be examined and is likely to reduce as **CT** steps down and the handbook is no longer produced.

Those at the Meeting were happy with these comments and the proposed fees for the Summer League 2013.

GB asked the meeting for suggestions on expenditure to be routed through JI.

Marie Gill, David Lloyd, suggested that funds could be used to purchase commemorative awards for presentation to the players of winning teams as per the Barkston Ash league.

9) IT AND WEBSITE REPORT

Steve Bastow (**SB**) reported:

- a) The League's use of LTA software was working well and that the second year of implementation on the summer leagues 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.
- c) The main issues concerned
 - player names which were not always recorded but left as "player name unknown"
 - results being "confirmed" by winning captains during initial results recording.
- d) **SB** indicated that there were unlikely to be any major changes to the software and terminology on the website as it currently stands. He encouraged any feedback to be sent in via **JI**.
- e) On the League's own website **SB** reported that it is a communication vehicle and mainly used as a noticeboard. No changes are planned but suggestions welcomed. Again please route through **JI**.

10) RULES AND CONSTITUTION

GB reminded the meeting that the Rules and Fair Play Charter apply to all sections. He asked captains to ensure they were familiar with them and that they were followed by all players.

Sally Harris, Alwoodley, queried LTA affiliation and public liability insurance. **GB** confirmed that this was automatically provided by the LTA for affiliated clubs. For non affiliated clubs, the League requires sight of sufficient insurance cover in order for those clubs to be eligible to compete in League competitions.

GB reminded the meeting that all clubs need to ensure their courts and changing facilities were fit for purpose.

ACTION: JI to ensure that all recent changes to Rules and the Fair Play Charter are updated on the website.

11) ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

GB reminded the meeting of the requests that had gone out for new volunteers to help run the League. No replies have been received. This threatens the League's continuation. He reported:

- a) **GB** will continue as Chairman but only until the **AGM in March 2013**. He reminded the meeting that he had flagged this at the Autumn General meeting last November and again at the AGM in March 2012. So a new Chairman will soon be required. The League constitution states **No Chair No League!!**
- b) As flagged at the AGM and flagged again now, there is an immediate vacancy for a new Deputy Chairman and Vice Chairman.
- c) As reported above, there is a need to have new Section Co-ordinators for:
 - Ladies and Junior Sections** - These are the most urgent role vacancies and must be resolved by **April 2013**.

GB said if no-one did come forward to volunteer then these Sections may have to be suspended.

d) Penny Rice has agreed to continue with the fixture planning for summer 2013, though Ken Walker has stepped down. Help has been offered by **SS** and possibly **Jl** for 2013. More help may be needed in the future.

GB reminded the meeting that the current committee were all volunteers and that rotation was needed.

Views were sought from the floor and are summarised as follows:

Rawdon – Clubs already have trouble getting volunteers to help run their own organisations. Those who already volunteer do not have time/willingness to do more. Could paid assistance be retained?

Armley – Could roles and responsibilities be allocated according to the size of clubs and numbers of teams participating?

Pool – Could the League provide signs and brief descriptions of roles and responsibilities that could be advertised in clubs?

SS – New blood brings new ideas but paying for support would use up League resources and lead to an increase in fees in the long term

GB – Would some of the bigger clubs who already have central secretarial support be able to take on more administration in return for a small fee e.g. Chapel Allerton, David Lloyd, Ilkley? This would use up funds though.

CT – Is there an issue that joining the committee would be too great a step up in terms of commitment? Would the LTA/YLTA be able to provide an incentive such as Wimbledon tickets to be balloted amongst the Section Co-ordinators?

GB reminded the meeting that the League was only rescued in 2008/9 due to volunteers coming forward at the eleventh hour and that the League had again reached another cliff edge.

ACTION: GB and Jl will prepare Request For Help posters to be displayed on club noticeboards

Members at the meeting should take the message back to their clubs that we urgently need a Ladies and Junior Section Co-ordinator and that very soon we will need a new Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Vice Chairman and help on the Winter League.

12) PRESENTATIONS OF TROPHIES

The following awards were announced for 2012

SECTION	WINNER	PRESENTED TO
Ladies Division 1	David Lloyd	Marie Gill
Ladies Division 2	Armley	Rachel McDonald
Ladies Division 3	Roundhay D	Steph Stockwell
Medley	Grove Hill	Lynne Ashworth
Mixed Division 1	Chapel Allerton	Daniel Chubb
Mixed Division 2	Rawdon	<i>Unpresented</i>
Mens Division 1	Ilkley A	<i>Unpresented</i>
Mens Division 2	Bardsey	Julian Howes
Mens Division 3	Roundhay A	Chris Harper
Mens Division 4	Ilkley C	Carol Cherry
Mens Division 5	Whitkirk B	<i>Unpresented</i>
Winter League	Chapel Allerton	Daniel Chubb
Veterans	Wetherby B	Ian Teasdale

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

It was agreed that photos could be posted to the website for publicity purposes.

It was agreed that clubs were responsible for engraving the trophies for the year.

Jackson Trophies of 17 Chapel Street, Halton LS15 7RN Tel: 0113 2326505 are recommended for their reasonable rates. The League could provide an allowance if necessary.

ACTION: JI to chase the trophies not returned by the 2011 winners being:

Mixed Division 2: JCCS

Mens Division 1: Ilkley A

Mens Division 5: Kirkstall

JI to send copies of the photos to the winning teams

13) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

GB thanked Chapel Allerton for hosting the meeting, free of charge to the League. He thanked everyone for coming and reminded them that the bar was still open.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.40pm