

Banbury and District Tennis Leagues

Minutes of AGM
16th February 2012
Souldern Village Hall

Present

Nick Adams (League Secretary), Bronwyn Adams (Deddington), Sue Mercer (Harbury), Trevor Stevens (League Treasurer), Colin Mercer (League Chairman), Judith Haynes (Charlbury), Deirdre Lunney (Charlbury), Trevor Barnes (Towcester), Maureen McAree (Towcester), Chris Nagle (Priors Marston), Rob Morrissey (Priors Marston), June Ward (Deddington), Diana Proctor (Marsh Gibbon), Sue Jelfs (Banbury West End), Nigel Hicks (Kings Sutton), Jim Griffith (Brackley), Shirley Griffith (Brackley), Julie Smart (Tysoe), Carol Spencer (Tysoe), Garry Liversage (Middleton Cheney), Paul Christie (Middleton Cheney), Stephen Rogers (Banbury), Mark Gregory (Byfield)

The meeting opened at 7:30 p.m.

1. Apologies

David Hudson (Hook Norton)

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (17th February 2011)

The Minutes were circulated. They had been previously posted on the Banbury Tennis Leagues website. There were no questions or comments.

Garry Liversage (Middleton Cheney) proposed the Minutes be accepted, seconded by Julie Smart (Tysoe). The Minutes were accepted unanimously.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes

Sue Jelfs (Banbury West End) asked for confirmation that Clubs with floodlights would start their Summer League home matches earlier in the season than Clubs that did not have floodlights.

Nick Adams confirmed that was the case.

There were no further matters arising from the Minutes.

4. Secretary's Report

A written report was circulated and is available on the BTL website.

Sue Jelfs (Banbury West End) expressed her thanks to the League Secretary. Colin Mercer (Harbury and League Chairman) echoed her comments.

5. Treasurer's Report

A written report was circulated and is available on the BTL website.

There is an anomaly in that the previous League Secretary had historically been remunerated a period in arrears whereas the current League Secretary is being reimbursed towards the end of each period.

Consequently two lots of Match Secretary's fees were incurred during the period. This anomaly will not be repeated. Furthermore, the current arrangement is 'all in'; i.e. no extras are charged by the current League

Secretary so under normal circumstances this would result in a near 'break even'.

Nigel Hicks (Kings Sutton) asked whether there had been a charge for the hall used for the AGM. The Treasurer replied that the hall charge and refreshments had been funded from the League Secretary's remuneration.

There was a similar question about costs of web hosting. The League Secretary confirmed that costs of web hosting and domain renewal were not charged to the League. This would normally be £40/annum. He drew the attendee's attention to his low cost web hosting service – www.nickshosting.com

Carol Spencer (Tysoe) asked what would happen if payments were not synchronised in future. The Treasurer replied that it was extremely unlikely as the League Secretary now submitted correct paperwork.

The Chairman asked if there were any further questions. There were none.

The Chairman thanked Trevor and asked for approval of the accounts. Approval was proposed by Carol Spencer (Tysoe), seconded by Sue Jelfs (Banbury West End) and passed unanimously.

6. Election of Officers

It had previously been agreed that the role of Chairman would be on a revolving basis whereby club names would be picked 'out of a hat' annually in advance.

Colin Mercer had indicated his willingness to continue for a further year.

As no further nominations had been received Colin Mercer (Harbury) was elected as Chairman proposed by Garry Liversage (Middleton Cheney), seconded by Diana Proctor (Marsh Gibbon) and passed unanimously.

Trevor Stevens (Deddington) was elected as Treasurer and Nick Adams (Deddington) as Secretary, both proposed by Paul Christie (Middleton Cheney), seconded by Julie Smart (Tysoe) and re-elected unanimously.

6a. Formation of Summer League

Whilst not on the agenda, the Chairman proposed the following divisions for Banbury & District Summer League 2012. The proposal was agreed unanimously:

Division 1

Banbury A	
Banbury West End A	
Brackley A	
Brackley B	promoted
Byfield A	
Charlbury A	
Deddington A	promoted

Division 2

Banbury B	
Banbury West End B	
Banbury West End C	promoted
Byfield B	relegated
Deddington B	promoted
Hook Norton A	
Kings Sutton A	relegated

Division 3

Banbury C	
Charlbury B	
Hook Norton B	
Kings Sutton B	relegated
Kings Sutton C	promoted
Middleton Cheney A	relegated
Middleton Cheney B	promoted

Division 4

Banbury West End E	promoted
Brackley C	
Byfield C	relegated
Charlbury C	
Hook Norton C	
Middleton Cheney C	promoted
Tysoe A	relegated

Division 5

Banbury West End D	relegated
Brackley D	new entry
Byfield D	
Deddington C	
Deddington D	
Harbury	relegated
Hook Norton D	
Hook Norton E	
Tysoe B	dropped out

7. Proposals

There were two proposals; both have been included in the next section (items 9 and 10).

9. Rules (amendments)

A document setting out proposed rule changes had been circulated with the AGM agenda and attendees had been requested to prepare by carefully reading this document.

Item 1 - Rules 2 & 3 (Winter & Floodlit)

Not currently a Summer Rule (but in the Constitution)

From:

A meeting will be called by the Secretary in September of each year to set out the formation of the Divisions.

Two Representatives from each Club will be invited to attend this meeting.

To:

An Annual General Meeting will be held once a year in February.

Two Representatives from each Club will be invited to attend this meeting.

A show of hands was taken and this proposal was carried unanimously.

Item 2 - Rule 6 (Winter & Floodlit)

Rule 3 (Summer)

From:

If a team fails to turn up without notifying the opposing team captain, at least 48 hours before the match, they will be deemed to have lost the match. If a team cancels a match for the published date for reasons other than for inclement weather or the unfit state of the courts, that team will concede the match and the points awarded to the opposition.

To:

If a team fails to turn up without notifying the opposing team captain, at least 48 hours before the match or cancels a match for the published date for reasons other than for inclement weather or the unfit state of the courts, their opponent has two options:

- a. to claim the match, or*
- b. to agree to a rearranged match*

The team making the decision should advise the League Secretary by email as soon as possible.

A show of hands was taken and this proposal was carried unanimously.

Item 3 - Rule 11 (Winter & Floodlit)

Rule 6 (Summer)

From:

No player may play down from his/her normal team. Players who have played three times for a higher team are not eligible to play in his/her lower team in

that season. In a case where a club is genuinely short of players, the Club may apply to the B.T.T.L. Secretary who will use his/her discretion and may allow exceptions to this Rule if he/she considers the plea is reasonable.

To:

No player should play down from his/her normal team. Players who have played three times for a higher team are not eligible to play in his/her lower team in that season.

However, if a club is genuinely short of players for a fixture they can declare this to their opponents and:

- a. play with a player short and concede those rubbers that he/she is missing, or*
- b. play down a player from a higher division and concede those rubbers that he/she has played*
- c. use a club player that may not normally play in a team*

The agreed outcome should be indicated on the score card.

There was a short discussion about whether teams would tactically abuse this.

Eventually Julie Smart (Tysoe) proposed that this should be tried for a year and reviewed at the next AGM.

It was seconded by Judith Haynes (Charlbury) and carried unanimously by a show of hands.

***Item 4 - Rule 13 (Winter & Floodlit)
Rule 4 (Summer)***

From:

The HOME team must advise the Secretary if a match cannot be played due to inclement weather or the unfit state of the courts within 3 days and the new date within the period covering the League (October – March) must be agreed within 14 days and such date to be notified to the Secretary on the card provided. EACH TEAM IS ALLOWED TO CHANGE ONE FIXTURE which must be agreed with the opposing team and notified to the Secretary BEFORE the date of the original match.

To:

The proposed fixtures will be posted on the league website as soon as possible after entry forms are received by the League Secretary. Unlimited fixture changes within the period of the league (October to May or April to September) are allowed before a deadline date which is also posted on the league website.

After the deadline date each team is allowed to change two fixtures which should be agreed with the opposing team and notified to the League Secretary by email as soon as possible.

If a team wishes to change any subsequent fixtures their opponent has two options:

- a. to claim the match, or
- b. to agree to a rearranged match

The team making the decision should advise the League Secretary by email as soon as possible.

If a match cannot be played due to inclement weather or the unfit state of the courts the Home team should advise the League Secretary by email as soon as possible.

A new date within the period covered by the League fixtures should be agreed and emailed to the League Secretary as soon as possible.

Again, a lively discussion took place about the relative merits of allowing one or two fixture changes. It was pointed out that this was not an absolute entitlement as in any case any change had to be agreed with the opposing team.

It does, however, provide discretion for Team Captains that the existing rules do not.

Shirley Griffith (Brackley) proposed the change be accepted, Julie Smart (Tysoe) seconded the proposal and the proposal was carried 10 to 7 on a show of hands.

Item 5 - Rule 7 (Winter & Floodlit)

Floodlit Rules state that "If a match is abandoned before 3 sets have been played the entire match must be replayed." but in the Winter Rules it's 5 sets

*Should it be the same number? If so, what should that number be?
(n.b. Summer Rules it's 5 rubbers)*

and

Item 6 - Rule 7 (Winter & Floodlit)

Furthermore rule 7 that "If a match is abandoned before 3 (or 5) sets have been played the entire match must be replayed" but it doesn't explicitly state what should happen if the match is abandoned after 3 (or 5) sets have been played.

There is a precedent, however, in the Summer Rules which state that "If 5 rubbers have been completed, the result will stand and the match be completed at a later mutually convenient date players completing a match may be different from those originally chosen."

I propose to modify Winter & Floodlit Rule 7 so they mirror the Summer Rule and explicitly state what should happen if the match is abandoned after 3 (or 5) sets have been played.

Many attendees had not had a match abandoned and the Secretary was asked the extent of this problem replying that there had been three instances that he was aware of this year.

After much discussion a proposal was made by Colin Mercer (Chairman and Harbury) that if a match is abandoned at any point then the whole match be replayed.

This proposal was accepted on a show of hands 13 for, 3 against with 2 abstentions.

Item 7 - Proposed New Rule (Winter, Floodlit & Summer)

If disputes cannot be resolved by Match Secretaries they should be referred to a Dispute Resolution Committee. This Committee should consist of the Chairman (who would have a casting vote), the Treasurer and two Match Secretaries (who would be independent and have no vested interest in the dispute). This committee would meet on an ad-hoc basis, not necessarily in person but could carry out their discussions by phone or email.

A show of hands was taken and this proposal was carried unanimously.

Item 8 – Query (Winter, Floodlit & Summer)

What happens if a team withdraws in mid-season?

Options:

- a. All matches conceded to opponents, even those already played*
- b. just unplayed matches conceded to opponents*

A show of hands was taken and option a. was voted unanimously.

Item 9 – Proposal from Trevor Stevens (Summer)

Rule 10 (Winter and Floodlit) states that “No player may represent more than one club in the Winter/Floodlit League in one season” but there is no equivalent rule for the Summer League

It is proposed to add this rule to Summer Rules.

A show of hands was taken and this proposal was carried unanimously.

Item 10 – Question/Proposal from David Hudson

Is it necessary to publish postal addresses of Team Captains and Match Secretaries on the website?

A show of hands was taken and was agreed unanimously that it is not necessary. The Secretary agreed to remove addresses from the website.

However, he advised attendees that despite a number of requests information had still not been removed from the old website maintained by the previous League Secretary.

The difficulty appears to be access to the old website but if the previous League Secretary was just able to upload blank documents to replace the existing ones that would be acceptable.

Item 11 – Constitution

Item 5 states that "An Honorarium of £500 per annum will be paid to the Secretary". This is clearly out of date so my proposal is that "An Honorarium will be paid annually to the Secretary, the amount to be decided yearly by the Chairman and Treasurer"

A show of hands was taken and this proposal was carried unanimously. Carol Spencer (Tysoe) advised that in the interest of transparency the agreed amount should be declared at the AGM. This suggestion was accepted. The Secretary reiterated that the whole arrangement was properly documented and invoices submitted.

The Chairman advised that he had earlier discussed and agreed an increase with the Treasurer. The agreed increase is £50/annum making a total of £1,050/annum. The Secretary thanked them.

10. Any Other Business

The Chairman asked if there was any other business – there was none.

11. Presentation of Certificates

The Chairman presented certificates to those Winners and Runners Up of the 2010/11 Winter and Floodlit Leagues who had not been able to receive them before.

He then presented certificates to the Winners and Runners Up of the 2012 Summer League offering particular congratulations to Brackley A who won all their matches losing only 9 sets.

Congratulations to all Winners and Runners Up.

With no further business to discuss the Meeting closed at 8:35 p.m.