

# Banbury and District Tennis Leagues

Minutes of AGM  
7th February 2013  
Souldern Village Hall

---

## **Present**

Nick Adams (League Secretary), Bronwyn Adams (Deddington), Trevor Stevens (League Treasurer), Sue Jelfs (Banbury West End), Colin Mercer (League Chairman), Carol Spencer (Tysoe), Garry Liversage (Middleton Cheney), Paul Christie (Middleton Cheney), Judith Haynes (Charlbury), Judy Kirk (Charlbury), Fiona Cronin (Byfield), Diana Proctor (Marsh Gibbon), Sally Webb (Hook Norton), David Hudson (Hook Norton), Elizabeth Cooke (Warwick), Ian McGivern (Warwick), Rob Morrissey (Priors Marston), George Gibbs (Deddington), June Ward (Deddington), Trevor Barnes (Towcester), Maureen McAree (Towcester), Steve Rogers (Banbury), Shirley Griffith (Brackley), Susan Ford (Brackley), Nigel Hicks (Kings Sutton)

The meeting opened at 7:28 p.m.

## **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Julie Smart (Tysoe) and Sue Mercer (Harbury)

## **2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (16th February 2012)**

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

Carol Spencer (Tysoe) proposed the Minutes be accepted, seconded by Susan Ford (Brackley). The Minutes were accepted unanimously.

## **3. Matters arising from the Minutes**

- 3a. A rule amendment had been proposed at the last AGM and it was agreed that it should be tried for a year and reviewed at the next AGM.

The rule states that *"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"*

It was generally felt that this rule change had been successful, had led to fewer requests for arbitration to the League Secretary and had not been abused and so it was agreed by a show of hands to retain it.

Rob Morrissey (Priors Marston) proposed an amendment that if a player did play down then he or she should take the place of the highest ranked team member. After discussion this was amended to 'lowest ranked member.' The proposal was not seconded or voted on but if proposed formally may be debated at the next AGM.

- 3b. It was agreed that in the interest of transparency the agreed Honorarium paid annually to the Secretary should be declared at the AGM. The Treasurer advised that this sum is £1,050.

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.

It was accepted by the meeting attendees and Colin Mercer (Harbury and League Chairman) expressed his thanks to the League Secretary.

**5. Treasurer's Report**

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

Coincidentally the 2012/13 Summer Fees are the same as the previous year.

There is a minor error in that the Honorarium paid to the Secretary is stated as £1,000 whereas it should be £1,050. The Treasurer said this would be corrected.

The Treasurer stated that bank interest rates are very low.

He said a number of clubs had not sent cheques for their Summer League entries and asked those clubs to send them as soon as possible as they are now due.

A suggestion was made that BACS information be posted on the website and printed on entry forms. The League Secretary said he would do so.

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 Garry Liversage (Middleton Cheney) 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 (Harbury) had indicated his willingness to continue for a further year. Trevor Stevens (Deddington) and Nick Adams (Deddington) stated they were willing to continue in their roles as Treasurer and Secretary respectively. No further nominations had been received.

Fiona Cronin (Byfield) proposed that the Officers be re-elected, seconded by Shirley Griffith (Brackley). The motion was passed unanimously.

**7. Proposals**

There were three proposals

- 7a. Because the summer season 2012 was particularly wet there were more postponements/cancellations than usual so Deddington Tennis Club proposed that to help with this and to try and avoid the problem of having to use floodlights for part/some summer matches the size of each division be reduced to 6 teams. This would currently be 6 divisions with 6 teams in each.

They further proposed that a rule should be made to clarify the position when having to re-arrange matches.

- 7b. Tysoe's proposal stated that smaller clubs are able to field 2 teams in the winter but only one in the summer because more players are needed. They proposed that the format for matches in the summer follow the same as for winter i.e. 2 men, 2 women playing one ladies, one mens and two mixed matches and asked the meeting to consider later start times which would possibly make more players available.

The Secretary produced and circulated a table to compare the formation of the Summer League with and without proposal 7a. See Appendix A (attached).

The two proposals had similar objectives so the lively and comprehensive discussion that followed considered them concurrently.

Eventually the Chairman asked for a first vote on proposal 7b. It was proposed by Carol Spencer (Tysoe) and seconded by Rob Morrissey (Priors Marston) but with two votes in favour on a show of hands, the proposal was rejected.

A vote on proposal 7a. was then taken. It was proposed by June Ward (Deddington) and seconded by Paul Christie (Middleton Cheney) and carried 11 to 4 on a show of hands with 5 abstentions.

The timing of implementation was then discussed and a vote taken on whether it should be implemented in the coming 2013 season proposed by Nigel Hicks (Kings Sutton) and seconded by Sue Jelfs (Banbury West End). There were 4 votes for and 7 against so this was not carried.

Subsequently a proposal to commence the new structure in the 2014 season was made by Fiona Steen (Byfield), seconded by George Gibbs (Deddington) and carried on a show of hands with 11 members voting for the proposal.

The main reason for implementing in 2014 rather than 2013 was felt to be that entries have already been submitted on the basis of current league structure and it would not be fair to change this retrospectively.

In addition the new structure should not be imposed on teams without notice.

Deddington's proposal that a rule should be made to clarify the position when having to re-arrange matches was then discussed.

It was felt that guidelines needed to be re-established so the League Secretary suggested that he could poll members by email then make proposals based on the responses. This suggestion was accepted by the members.

- 7c. Shirley Griffith (Brackley) proposed a change to Rule no 17 of the Floodlit rules.

They would like to change this rule from "*The Home Team will also be responsible for providing a warm drink and appropriate substantial refreshments*". to: "*The Home Team will also be responsible for providing a warm drink and light refreshments (e.g. cake, biscuits or a light snack)*".

A discussion took place and the proposal was seconded by Nigel Hicks (Kings Sutton) and carried by 14 votes for with no votes against.

A further amendment that the refreshments should be discussed and arranged by the opposing Team Captains was proposed by Rob Morrissey (Priors Marston) and seconded by George Gibbs (Deddington). There were 3 votes in favour and 11 against so this proposal was not carried.

**8. Formation of the 2013 Summer League**

Following the lengthy discussion in item 7 the composition of the Summer League was agreed to be maintained as five divisions with divisions 1 to 4 having 7 teams and division 5 with 8 teams. The divisions will be posted on the website during the next few days.

**9. Any Other Business**

The Chairman asked if there was any other business.

Shirley Griffith (Brackley) said that she found the information on the website very useful but wondered why the reasons that matches were conceded were not included.

The League Secretary agreed and said that he would encourage teams to submit match cards with that information in future.

David Hudson (Hook Norton) informed the League Secretary that website menus did not work properly when using the latest version of Microsoft Internet Explorer. The League Secretary said he would investigate and report back.

As there was no further business the meeting moved on to:

**10. Presentation of Certificates**

The Chairman presented certificates to the Winners and Runners Up of the 2012 Summer League and received a certificate on behalf of his own club, Harbury, from the League Secretary.

Congratulations to all Winners and Runners Up.

With no further business to discuss the Chairman thanked all attendees for their contribution, invited everyone to participate in the drinks and nibbles provided and apologised for the heating problems in the Village Hall.

He then formally closed the meeting at 8:54 p.m.

**APPENDIX A**

2012 table

Div 1  
Banbury A  
Brackley A  
Byfield A  
Banbury West End A  
Deddington A  
Charlbury A  
Brackley B

Div 2  
Kings Sutton A  
Banbury West End B  
Hook Norton A  
Banbury B  
Byfield B  
Banbury West End C  
Deddington B

Div 3  
Middleton Cheney A  
Kings Sutton B  
Charlbury B  
Hook Norton B  
Banbury C  
Middleton Cheney B  
Kings Sutton C

Div 4  
Banbury West End E  
Brackley C  
Tysoe  
Byfield C  
Hook Norton C  
Middleton Cheney C  
Charlbury C

Div 5  
Harbury  
Deddington C  
Banbury West End D  
Byfield D  
Hook Norton D  
Deddington D  
Brackley D  
Hook Norton E

2013 - existing structure

Div 1  
Banbury A  
Brackley A  
Byfield A  
Banbury West End A  
Deddington A  
Kings Sutton A  
Banbury West End B

Div 2  
Charlbury A  
Brackley B  
Hook Norton A  
Banbury B  
Byfield B  
Middleton Cheney A  
Kings Sutton B

Div 3  
Banbury West End C  
Deddington B  
Charlbury B  
Hook Norton B  
Banbury C  
Banbury West End D  
Brackley C

Div 4  
Middleton Cheney B  
Kings Sutton C  
Tysoe  
Byfield C  
Hook Norton C  
Harbury  
Deddington C

Div 5  
Middleton Cheney C  
Charlbury C  
Banbury West End E  
Byfield D  
Hook Norton D  
Deddington D  
Brackley D  
Hook Norton E

2013 - divisions of six

Div 1  
Banbury A  
Brackley A  
Byfield A  
Banbury West End A  
Deddington A  
Kings Sutton A

Div 2  
Banbury West End B  
Charlbury A  
Brackley B  
Hook Norton A  
Banbury B  
Byfield B

Div 3  
Middleton Cheney A  
Kings Sutton B  
Banbury West End C  
Deddington B  
Charlbury B  
Hook Norton B

Div 4  
Banbury C  
Banbury West End D  
Brackley C  
Middleton Cheney B  
Kings Sutton C  
Tysoe

Div 5  
Byfield C  
Hook Norton C  
Harbury  
Deddington C  
Middleton Cheney C  
Charlbury C

Div 6  
Banbury West End E  
Byfield D  
Hook Norton D  
Deddington D  
Brackley D  
Hook Norton E