

Banbury and District Tennis Leagues

Minutes of AGM
5th February 2015
Souldern Village Hall

Present

Nick Adams (League Secretary), Bronwyn Adams (Deddington), Trevor Stevens (League Treasurer), June Ward (Deddington), Sue Mercer (Harbury), Colin Mercer (League Chairman), Paul Christie (Middleton Cheney), Garry Liversage (Middleton Cheney), Mark Gregory (Byfield), Colette Johnson (Byfield), Judith Haynes (Charlbury), Diedre Lunny (Charlbury), Barrie Smith (Hook Norton), Sylvia Wilcox (Tysoe), Liz Finlyson (Tysoe), Ray Armstrong (Banbury West End), Shirley Griffith (Brackley), Jim Griffith (Brackley), Tanya Gardner (Kings Sutton)

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7:28 p.m. by welcoming all attendees and expressing gratitude to Bronwyn for arranging the food and drink.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Lizzie Cooke (Warwick), Di Proctor (Marsh Gibbon), Trevor Barnes (Towcester) and Sue Jelfs (Banbury West End).

There were no attendees present from Banbury, Marsh Gibbon, Priors Marston, Towcester or Warwick.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (6th February 2014)

The Minutes were circulated. They had been previously posted on the Banbury Tennis Leagues website. The Chairman asked the meeting to review them page by page and asked whether there were any questions, comments or corrections.

There were none so Barrie Smith (Hook Norton) proposed the Minutes be accepted. The proposal was seconded by Garry Liversage (Middleton Cheney) and the Minutes were accepted by the floor.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes

The Chairman asked if there were any matters arising from the Minutes. There were none.

4. Secretary's Report

The League Secretary delivered his report in verbal and written format. It is available on the League website.

The report was accepted by the meeting attendees.

Barrie Smith (Hook Norton) commented on the ease of the League reporting system and the League Secretary thanked him accordingly.

5. Treasurer's Report

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

The apparent anomaly in the Secretary's fees is due to a timing difference. £25 that should have been accounted for in 2014/15 was in fact allocated to the previous year.

Summer Fees declined due to one less entry. The increase in Winter Fees is due to the increased Entry Fee that was agreed last year.

The Treasurer explained that the Secretary's fees were 'all inclusive' and no additional expenses are claimed.

Despite this there has been a small deficit over the last two years so the Treasurer proposed that a modest increase to the Entry Fee from £13 to £14 per team entered would rectify the situation.

The Chairman thanked Trevor and asked for approval of the accounts. This was proposed by Mark Gregory (Byfield), seconded by Diedre Lunny (Charlbury) and passed unanimously.

Acceptance of the Entry Fee increase was proposed by Barrie Smith (Hook Norton) and seconded by Shirley Griffith (Brackley). It was passed by the attendees on a show of hands.

The League Secretary stated that there was no need to increase his payment as he was satisfied with the status quo.

The Treasurer commented that this AGM signified his 10th year as Treasurer. The attendees congratulated him.

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

6. Election of Officers

The existing Officers had expressed their willingness to stand for another year. There had been no further nominations so they were reelected without a vote.

7. Proposals

There were 2 proposals. They are attached to these minutes.

1. Some clubs play with non-pressurised balls:
Following an interesting discussion the Chairman suggested that Rule 18 be amended to include the statement that *"The Home club shall provide 4 LTA/ITF approved balls for each court in use during a match."*

This was then proposed by Colette Johnson (Byfield), seconded by Tanya Gardner (Kings Sutton) and carried by a majority show of hands.

2. Rule 14 is badly worded and may be misconstrued. It is not applied consistently across the three Leagues.

The Chairman informed the attendees of some background research he had conducted to see how other League organisers handled this issue. He also explained his understanding of the British Tennis grading system.

Attendees wanted to maintain the spirit of the League and questioned whether County level players would want to play at the level of our League except in special circumstances such as returning from injury.

Eventually the Chairman suggested that Rule 14 be amended to read as follows:

"No player who has represented their County at any level in the previous two years will be eligible to play in the Banbury Town Leagues."

This was proposed by Barrie Smith (Hook Norton) and seconded by Paul Christie (Middleton Cheney). With 11 votes in favour and 3 against the motion was carried.

A suggestion that two years may be a little harsh and could possibly be reduced to one year was rejected.

Shirley Griffith (Brackley) said that if Rule 14 was imposed this Summer, it would be in effect be retrospective as entries had already been submitted so it was decided to apply the rule for 2015/6 Winter and Floodlight Leagues and 2016 Summer League.

The caveat on the existing Summer rule will be removed or amended.

8. Survey to gauge interest in other competition formats

This was proposed last year to stimulate participation in the Banbury Tennis League. The Secretary summarised the inputs received to date and other clubs added their possible involvement.

Whilst the responses were encouraging they were not sufficient to guarantee a successful League so it was decided to do a trial in 2016. The Secretary agreed to send out Entry Forms earlier than usual so that clubs could plan accordingly if they intend to participate.

It is hoped that when faced with a concrete proposal clubs will be more likely to respond.

The competitions will be as follows:

- a. Mens Doubles – played at weekends during the Summer season
- b. Ladies Doubles – played at weekends during the Summer season
- c. Mixed Doubles – played at weekends during the Summer season

The format will be the same as current Winter/Floodlit Leagues (i.e. teams of four)

Sylvia Wilcox (Tysoe) asked if there had been much interest in changing the existing Summer League format from 6 players to 4. The League Secretary said there had not. This view was reinforced by other members present.

9. Formation of the 2015 Summer League

There were insufficient entries to form 6 Divisions containing 6 teams in each. The affected teams in Divisions 5 and 6 were asked to vote on two options:

- 6 teams in Division 5, 4 teams in Division 6 or
- 5 teams in Divisions 5 and 6

The majority opted for 5 teams in Divisions 5 and 6 and this was agreed by all members present.

A handout was distributed and these divisions will be posted on the website during the next few days.

10. Any Other Business

The Chairman asked if there was any other business.

Shirley Griffith (Brackley) asked if the season deadlines had been extended as she had noticed some matches had been scheduled after the existing deadlines.

Nick Adams replied that there was looming fixture congestion, partially due to adverse weather and he had had to extend fixture deadlines in the past. He had already received a request for a match to be rescheduled to the Monday following the existing deadline.

Having examined the position members agreed to extend the Winter Season deadline to the 29th March 2015 and the Floodlit Season deadline to the 31st March 2015.

The Secretary said that he would communicate this to the Match Secretaries and Team Captains.

Barrie Smith (Hook Norton) reminded the meeting that there was an outstanding query in the League Secretary's report about forming a sub-committee to investigate and make recommendations about players playing down in the early part of the season.

There were some interesting points raised. Mark Gregory and Colette Johnson (Byfield) said that competition for team places was very intense in their club so they nominate squads before the season started. If all clubs could do this then the problem would be solved but last year this was deemed not to be possible.

June Ward (Deddington) asked whether Captains should complain to the Dispute Resolution Committee if they saw examples of this happening. The Chairman responded that the Dispute Resolution Committee could only apply judgments to the rules as they stand.

Paul Christie (Middleton Cheney) suggested that A Teams start a week earlier but this would not be effective as players do not become tied until they have played three times for a higher team.

After much debate Barrie Smith (Hook Norton) proposed that this rule be left unchanged adding that people would just learn to live with it. Ray Armstrong (Banbury West End) seconded the proposal. There were two abstentions and no votes against so the proposal was carried.

There being no further business the final agenda item is:

11. Presentation of Certificates

The Chairman presented certificates to the Winners and Runners Up of the 2014 Summer League. The Certificate for Banbury will be delivered by hand.

Congratulations to all Winners and Runners Up.

With no further business to discuss the Chairman thanked all attendees for their contribution inviting everyone to further participate in the refreshments.

The meeting closed at 9:06 p.m.

Banbury Tennis Leagues – 2015 AGM Proposals

1. Some clubs play with non-pressurised balls proposed by Kings Sutton

Problem: Some clubs play with non-pressurised balls which gives them an unfair advantage during matches over other clubs.

Proposal: To introduce a rule that all interclub matches must be played with pressurised balls.

Impact of the proposal: All clubs would be on a level playing field.

2. Rule 14 proposed by League Secretary

Problem: Rule 14 states that 'No player who has played in senior county matches in the previous three years will be eligible to play in the Banbury Town Leagues. (A Senior County Player is one who has played in the hardcourt singles or taken part in County Week.)'

- a. Rule 14 is badly worded. I believe it is intended to apply to only Adult County standard players but it may be mis-construed as also applying to Junior and Senior County standard players.
- b. It exists for Winter and Floodlit Leagues but not the Summer League.

Proposal:

- a. Decide whether Junior and Senior County Players are eligible to play.
- b. Agree a proper definition and incorporate it in rule 14.
e.g." No player who has represented their County in the Adult Winter & Summer County Cups in the previous 3 years will be eligible to play in Banbury Town leagues
- c. Add rule 14 to Summer Rules.

Impact of the proposal: Clarification of rules will mean less confusion.