

# Banbury and District Tennis Leagues

Minutes of AGM  
16th February 2017  
Souldern Village Hall

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## **Present**

Nick Adams (League Secretary), Bronwyn Adams (Deddington), Trevor Stevens (League Treasurer), Art Kharlamov (Brackley), Colin Mercer (League Chairman), Caroline Morland (Harbury), Geoff Ward (Deddington), Mark Gregory (Byfield), Trevor Barnes (Towcestrians), George Newton (Towcestrians), Val Christie (Middleton Cheney), Paul Christie (Middleton Cheney), Libby Gibbs (Deddington), Mark Jarman (Charlbury), Diana Jarman (Charlbury), Lizzie Cooke (Warwick), Ian McGivern (Warwick), Sylvia Wilcox (Tysoe), Carol Spencer (Tysoe), Rob Jones (Banbury West End), Tanya Gardner (Kings Sutton), Shirley Griffith (Brackley), Jim Griffith (Brackley), Barrie Smith (Hook Norton)

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7:31 p.m. by welcoming all attendees and thanking Bronwyn for arranging the meeting venue, food and drinks.

## **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from June Ward (Deddington) and Diana Proctor (Marsh Gibbon)

## **2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (4th February 2016)**

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.

Trevor Barnes (Towcestrians) proposed the Minutes be accepted. The proposal was seconded by Barrie Smith (Hook Norton) and the Minutes were accepted by all those present.

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

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

## **4. Secretary's Report**

The League Secretary then delivered his report which was accepted by the meeting attendees. It is available on the League website. He introduced Art Kharlamov (Brackley) who has expressed an interest in taking over the position then thanked Colin Mercer and Trevor Stevens for their excellent support pointing out to all attendees the importance of loyalty and continuity.

## **5. Treasurer's Report**

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

The Treasurer highlighted that the income over expenditure had improved last year resulting in a surplus of £174.70 compared with a deficit of £41 in the previous period. The advent of the 'new' Summer Weekend Leagues and three more Winter entries made the difference. Interest received continues to be negligible.

There were no questions. Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Carol Spencer (Tysoe), seconded Paul Christie (Middleton Cheney) and carried unanimously.

## 6. Election of Officers

The Chairman and Treasurer once again expressed their willingness to stand for another year. There were no further nominations and no vote was taken.

The League Secretary resigned last year. Art Kharlamov (Brackley) has expressed an interest in taking the position. His appointment was proposed by Tanya Gardner (Kings Sutton), seconded by Mark Gregory (Byfield) and carried unanimously by a show of hands.

The incoming League Secretary then introduced himself saying that his prime motivation is about encouraging and promoting grass roots tennis.

The outgoing League Secretary said that in his opinion members should investigate alternative ways of administrating the League.

Art agreed with comments made last year about the system currently in use. It is very labour intensive, expensive and the software is obsolete. He has evaluated a number of options and decided to recommend Playwaze due to its flexibility and support. It can be used to manage many different sports; not just tennis. The basic package is free.

It will be embedded within the existing website but smartphone and tablet apps can also be used.

The methodology is simple. Team Captains login and enter their match scores; the League Secretary receives notification by email, reviews then accepts the input which then automatically updates the tables.

Anybody can view fixtures, results (including players and scores) and tables without logging in.

He commented that despite Plawaze being very intuitive there would inevitably be a 'learning curve' and that he would offer email and phone support where necessary.

There were some questions from the floor:

Rob Jones (Banbury West End) asked whether it was possible to embed the same information onto a club website. Art Kharlamov replied that it was very straightforward and that he would supply the relevant details to anybody requesting them.

Shirley Griffith (Brackley) said that MyDivision needed the opponent's Team Captain to confirm a result before it was accepted by the system and asked whether Playwaze was the same. Art replied that would not be the case in fact that aspect of the new system was the same as currently used, adding that he was able to correct any identified errors.

Carol Spencer (Tysoe) asked when login credentials would be issued to Team Captains. Art replied that many were already in place as part of his feasibility study but would email them again when summer fixtures are arranged.

Ian McGivern (Warwick) wanted to know whether Playwaze would identify illegal players (e.g. players 'playing down'). Art said that it is possible to configure the software to do so but initially that is not in place.

The Chairman thanked Art and were no further questions.

## **7. Proposals**

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

### *1. Constitution*

This was discussed and a vote was taken. Subsequently George Newton (Towcestrians), Barrie Smith (Hook Norton) and Carol Spencer (Tysoe) pointed out potential major flaws in the logic of the proposal and on consideration the proposer requested that the meeting allowed him to withdraw it.

### *2. Floodlit Rule 18*

This was discussed and carried 16 for and 4 against.

## **8. Formation of the 2017 Summer League**

With 32 entries the meeting was asked to consider:

- a. 5 Divisions (i.e. 3 of 7, 1 of 6 and 1 of 5) or
- b. 5 Divisions (i.e. 3 of 6, 2 of 7)

The main argument in favour of option 'a' was that it would mean that all promoted teams would play in a higher league in 2017. It was noted that last year the optimum number was 6 per division but the structure is dependent on the number of entries in total.

Barrie Smith (Hook Norton) proposed a third option. The only promoted team that would not go up would be Hook Norton C and in fact this was considered to be beneficial by Hook Norton as it presented an opportunity for them to encourage more younger players to compete.

- c. 5 Divisions (i.e. 2 of 7, 3 of 6)

A vote was taken; there were no votes for options 'a' or 'b' – a large majority voted for option 'c'. The League is attached and the incoming League Secretary will arrange the Summer Fixtures on this basis.

Mark Gregory (Byfield) commented that last year a team had withdrawn from Division 4 after draft fixtures had been circulated, resulting in fewer matches for the remaining teams in that division. The outgoing League Secretary confirmed that when this occurred it was unfortunately not possible to rearrange the structure of that division as it would entail rearranging a large number of fixtures; many of which would already have been confirmed by the clubs concerned together with other teams in the affected divisions.

## **10. Any Other Business**

The Chairman asked if there was any other business.

Barrie Smith (Hook Norton) asked the meeting to consider that if two or more teams from the same club are playing in the same division matches should be played early in the season to avoid tactical manipulation of results.

The Chairman responded that it is a hope and aspiration that sportsmanship should prevail but if clubs were determined to manipulate results it is very difficult to prevent.

It was also mentioned that some clubs are known to play better players in lower teams early in the season before they become tied.

Rob Smith (Banbury West End) highlighted that the popularity of their club is increasing pressure on the use of their courts by other clubs for floodlit matches. The outgoing League Secretary explained that he had inherited an arrangement whereby representatives from Banbury West End and Brackley took responsibility for the Floodlit fixtures.

He believed that other clubs were prepared to allow their courts to be used this way.

A clear statement is required from the various parties in good time if any changes are to be made.

There being no further business the final agenda item is:

**10. Presentation of Certificates**

The Chairman presented certificates to the Winners and Runners Up of the 2016 Summer League. The Certificate for Banbury will be posted.

Congratulations to all Winners and Runners Up.

**11. Finally**

The Chairman then presented Bronwyn Adams with an orchid to thank her for everything she has contributed to the smooth running of the League then a bottle of Australian red wine to Nick Adams, the outgoing League Secretary.



Nick thanked him on behalf of both of them adding that they had both enjoyed the experience very much.

There being no further business to attend to the meeting closed at 9:05 p.m.

## Banbury Tennis Leagues – 2017 AGM Proposals

### 1. Constitution:

**Problem:** Last year a vote was very narrowly carried with 4 votes for, 3 against and 10 abstentions – i.e. just 23% of the attendees voted for the new rule. Is this a satisfactory result?

**Proposal:** A proposal requires a minimum percentage of attendees at an AGM to vote in favour in order to be carried. Suggest 50%?

**Impact of the proposal:** Better quality decisions based on a genuine need for improvement.

### 2. Floodlit Rule 18

**Problem:** This rule was changed in 2013 but since then standards appear to have slipped.

The League Secretary received a formal complaint that a team involved in a long round trip which meant an early start and a late arrival home, were very disappointed that the only refreshments offered were tea and biscuits. Other clubs have made similar comments.

**Proposal:** Change from “The Home Team will also be responsible for providing a warm drink and light refreshments (e.g. cake, biscuits or a light snack)” back to “The Home Team will also be responsible for providing a warm drink and appropriate substantial refreshments.” n.b. all the other Banbury Leagues use this second form of wording.

**Impact of the proposal:**

- Harmonisation of rules across competitions
- Better quality post-match refreshments

## Formation of the 2017 Summer League

(Promoted teams in green, relegated sides in red)

### Division 1

- 1 Banbury A
- 2 Byfield A
- 3 Banbury West End A
- 4 Kings Sutton A
- 5 Hook Norton A
- 6 Brackley A
- 7 Middleton Cheney A

### Division 2

- 1 Charlbury A
- 2 Deddington A
- 3 Byfield B
- 4 Charlbury B
- 5 Banbury West End B
- 6 Deddington B
- 7 Banbury West End C

### Division 3

- 1 Banbury B
- 2 Hook Norton B
- 3 Middleton Cheney B
- 4 Banbury West End D
- 5 Banbury C
- 6 Tysoe A

### Division 4

- 1 Brackley B
- 2 Kings Sutton B
- 3 Byfield C
- 4 Harbury
- 5 Deddington C
- 6 Byfield D

### Division 5

- 1 Hook Norton C
- 2 Tysoe B
- 3 Brackley C
- 4 Deddington D
- 5 Hook Norton D
- 6 Charlbury C