

Minutes of the Wirral Tennis League AGM held at Upton on Wednesday 26th November 2014 at 7.30pm

1.0 Roll call of Club Representatives

1.1 The meeting was attended by the following club representatives:

Alderley – Mark Goodchild **Bertram** – Paul Evans and Dave Martin **Birkenhead** – Tom Randall and Margaret Dooley and Rich Chiverrell **Cheshire Oaks** – Rob Slade **Helsby**- No representative **Heswall** – Julia Risely and Chris lee **Hooton** – Danielle Slater **Hoylake** – Steve Roberts and Claire Miller **Neston** – Mel Brooks **North Cheshire** – Mike Kenny **Oxton** – Caroline Child **Pinewood** – No representative **Port Sunlight** – David Jarvis **Prenton** – Debbie Jones **Thorndale** – Chris Hopewell and Lesley Cubbin **Upton** – Mike Fryer and **Wallasey Manor** - Alison Loader and Nicky Smith.
Helsby and Pinewood will be fined £10 per team in WTL for not attending the AGM.

1.2 The following WTL Committee members were present:

Chairperson (Acting) – Matt Webb (Oxton). **Secretary** – Louise Wilson-Jarvis (Port Sunlight), **Fixture Secretary** – Geoff Dewhurst (Upton), **Treasurer** – Matt Webb (Oxton), **Committee** - Sue Edwards (Prenton), Mark Powers, (Prenton)

2.0 Apologies

2.1 Ben Hockey Helsby via text

3.0 Acceptance of last year's AGM minutes:

3.1 The minutes of last year's AGM dated Monday 18 November 2013 were proposed and seconded and accepted as a true record by the meeting.

4.0 Acting Chairpersons Report 2014

4.1 Matt Webb welcomed everyone to the meeting and then reported as follows:

Matt noted that this was the WTL's 37th season and was another great year of competition. 8 different clubs won across 9 divisions.

Matt referred to Ken Patrick, our Chairman having stood down at the end of the season further to moving to Scotland. Ken was thanked for his service and dedication as Chairman for the last 9 years and a tankard was presented to Ken at the presentation evening in September at Thorndale.

Matt noted that the WTL CM1 and CM2 meetings were again not well attended by clubs. It was reiterated that clubs benefit from attending meetings in knowing the Rules and can have input on the decisions taken in relation to the problems arising.

Matt thanked Thorndale for hosting the play offs and presentation evening. Thanks to Val McIndoe for arranging the trophies and to those committee members who assisted in running the play offs. Results are on the website.

Matt informed club representatives that there is a WTL facebook page and encouraged them to 'like' our page, update club information and pass on to members.

Matt then thanked all the committee members for their continued work in running the league.

5.0 Fixture Secretary's Report 2013

- 5.1 Geoff Dewhurst presented the 'Fixture Secretary's Report 2014' a copy of which was provided to each club at the meeting and has been uploaded to the WTL Website.

Any special requests should be put to Geoff as soon as possible for next season e.g. 2 particular teams at home together etc and before the end of the year.

Completion of fixtures has been helped by the introduction of 3rd set tie-breaks. Some improvement in the number of problems and less unfulfilled fixtures. Clubs to check contacts are up to date and inform of any changes.

Reminder to clubs to 'KNOW THE RULES'.

Ladies league only has 3 teams so would like more clubs to consider entering a team – will run with 3. Geoff is happy to run a singles league if people are interested. Also happy to run a veterans league so get in touch with him if you wish to enter people/teams in this.

Looking at electronic upload of results on-line.

Congratulations to all division winners and to teams gaining promotion and commiserations to teams relegated. Teams for re-election are Birkenhead 4 – Mixed; Wallasey Manor Men 1; Hoylake 1 Men; Oxtun 2 Men; Thorndale 1 Ladies.

Play offs 2015 provisionally scheduled for Saturday 5th September 2015. Clubs consider if they would like to host and inform the committee.

Geoff was thanked by the AGM attendees for his excellent work.

6.0 Treasurer's Report 2013

- 6.1 Matt Webb, had prepared and gave the Treasurer's report which is available to view on the website:

The league accounts are a simple job as we only generate income from club subscriptions and any presentation evenings held. Our only expenditures are the cost of running the league (stationery, website, flickr, trophy engraving, expenses as incurred and any agreed subsidy for the presentation evenings). Accounts have been circulated for to all club contacts as previously agreed allowing full audit of the accounts by all.

Matt asks that where possible clubs be encouraged to make their subscription payments electronically, remembering to key in their club name within the reference box when doing so as this would greatly increase the efficiency of collecting subscriptions and aid transparency on the Bank statements. We are gradually increasing our reserve which will help for future software updates, replacement trophies etc.

Prizes last year were claimed but not used after the presentation evening – please use them! Same for this year's prize winners.

Matt then proposed accounts to the meeting, they were seconded and were unanimously accepted.

7.0 Matter's arising from WTL CM2:

- 7.1 **Tea provision** - Discussion regarding courtesy to inform clubs in advance if players are not staying for food. Chris Hopewell had volunteered to create a pro-forma and had developed something that was very quick to complete. The meeting raised the issue that clubs playing in different venues to where the food is available is an issue and lots of people don't wish to return.

Some clubs felt it was an extra hassle to do this. Others felt it was just a courtesy. After discussion it was decided to be offered and seen as a courtesy but clubs will not be required to do this.

7.2 ***Nominations for Chairman:*** Only Matt Webb proposed and confirmed willing to stand

7.3 ***Review of Rule 8.8.2:*** This arose following a match at Neston as referred to in CM2 2014 Minutes. It was discussed and confirmed that there is no priority for higher teams to play on available courts when straight rubbers have already commenced. Rule is clear and not requiring amendment.

7.4 ***Consideration of increase to penalty in Appendix A, Rule 5:*** Teams overheard to agree to split rubbers. This was the first time that the issue had been proven, though all agreed not the first time to have occurred. It was accepted to be cheating. Ken Patrick had proposed increasing the penalty at CM2 2014 to a 16 point penalty. The Appendix needs amending to reflect Rule 5.6 not 5.7 is the relevant corresponding Rule. There was some discussion about whether people knew this was a problem. Rule 5.6 expressly states "Teams must not agree to halve an un-played rubber". It was reiterated that not knowing the Rules is not an excuse. It is the Club's responsibility, not an individual's.
It was proposed that both teams be scored zero and both teams penalised 8 points. This proposal was carried. Appendix A will be amended to reflect this.

8.0 Notices of motion

8.1 Change in wording of 9.5 reflecting the default position for 3rd set championship tiebreaks

Julie Risely (Heswall) had proposed this and sought to amend the motion to propose the default position be a 3rd set championship tiebreak throughout the season unless both captains agree to play a full set which was seconded. A vote was taken and the motion was carried on a majority.

9.0 Teams Applying for Re-election to the League:

9.1 Birkenhead 4 wished to be re-elected to Division 6. Re-elected.

9.2 Wallasey Manor 1 Men were re-elected by the meeting.

9.3 Hoylake 1 Men were re-elected by the meeting.

9.4 Oxton 2 Men were re-elected by the meeting.

9.5 Thorndale 1 ladies were re-elected by the meeting.

10.0 Election of Officers

All committee members were happy to stand for re-election and were elected. Ken Patrick had stood down at an earlier date as Chairman. Matt Webb was proposed and seconded as Chairman and agreed by the meeting. Agreed he will be Treasurer and Chairman. This left a vacant position on the committee and Chris Hopewell (Thorndale) was proposed and seconded and accepted on to the committee.

A reminder to all Clubs that under the structure of the WTL each Club have one place on the committee (currently totalling 17) and are therefore encouraged to send a representative to take part in committee meetings. The 7 standing members of the committee are Chairman, Fixture Secretary, League Secretary and Treasurer with an additional 4 general committee members. The committee typically meets twice a year, once at the half way point during the season and once at the end with a quorum for any meeting being 4 members of the committee.

11.0 Presentation Evening 2015 and Play Offs

It was agreed this would take place on Saturday 5 September 2015. However, the venue did not need to be decided until early next season. It was acknowledged that the 2 events on the same day made a great day for Wirral tennis. Hoylake, Upton and Heswall noted they would be interested in hosting the events.

There was mention of concern regarding the number of matches needing to have been played to qualify and it was said this will be considered at CM1 2015 regarding bottom teams.

12.0 Any other Business

- 12.1 Heswall raised issue of keeping track of scores in play offs as there had been an issue arising this year. Raised that teams were told to report scores to the organiser. Don't think can be clearer.
- 12.2 2 clubs not attending to be fined £10 per team in the WTL as per the Rules; Helsby £10, Pinewood £20. Louise to send notification to the clubs and Geoff will include a request to pay in the Notice to Clubs next season.
- 12.3 Geoff is considering software options regarding uploading results on-line – along the lines of home team uploading the score and away team going on to confirm. Geoff meeting soon with Christine Klee (LTA) to see if their software would be usable (also FS report)
- 12.4 Heswall asked whether a bonus point if a match was won on rubbers could be considered like in other sports. The scoring has essentially been like this since 1978. Tennis still rewards the overall team. No change carried through.
- 12.5 Heswall wished for the Rules and Appendix to be clarified. It was noted that Rule 5 in Appendix A needed amending to say 5.6 not 5.7. However all other updates are put in red each year so clubs can see clearly the differences from the year before. Emphasis on Clubs knowing the Rules again and encouraged to come to committee meetings.
- 12.6 Heswall wished for the Rules / penalties relating to rearranged matches to be clearer. The meeting agreed that there was no penalty, just the result awarded to the home team and that rules 8.6 (mixed) and 12.6 (mens / ladies) were clear. The rule had possibly been in existence since the formation of the league and definitely in 1998 rules.
- 12.7 With no other matters arising Matt thanked all the club representatives and members of the committee for their attendance and continued support and at 8.55pm declared the 2014 WTL AGM closed.

Louise Wilson-Jarvis
Wirral Tennis League Secretary.