

Wirral Tennis League

Minutes of Committee Meeting 1

16 June 2014

Held at Prenton LTC

1. Present/Apologies

1.1 The following WTL committee members were in attendance:

Ken Patrick – Chairman (Neston), Geoff Dewhurst – Fixture Secretary (Upton), Louise Wilson-Jarvis – Secretary (Port Sunlight), Matt Webb – Treasurer (Oxton), Mark Powers (Prenton), Sue Edwards (Prenton)

The following representatives attended on behalf of their clubs:

Jodie Edmonds (Oxton), Chris Hopewell (Thorndale), Lesley Cubbin (Thorndale), Nick Sharp (Prenton), Dave Blake (Alderley)

1.2 The following apologies were received:

Val McIndoe (Thorndale)
Heswall and North Cheshire Clubs sent apologies

1.3 The following clubs were not represented at the meeting:

Bertram, Birkenhead, Cheshire Oaks, Helsby, Hooton, Hoylake, Heswall, Neston, North Cheshire, Pinewood, Port Sunlight, Upton and Wallasey Manor.

2.0 Matters Arising

Only what arise in Problem 1 week 0.

3.0 Problems and Appeals

Ken Patrick reported that he had used the following procedure (as for previous meetings) to deal with the problem & action list (prepared by Geoff Dewhurst) arising for the period, a copy of which for reference is published on the WTL website:

1. Check standard penalty tariff applied correctly
2. Consider appeals received
3. Consider new problems/non standard penalties

4. AOB arising from problems

With the exception of problems 12, 18, 24, 25, 26 and 31 which were subject to appeals and/or requirement from WTL CM1 to apply correct penalty, and problems 5, 13, 17, 30, 33, 34, 37 and 38 which warranted further consideration, Ken believed Geoff had applied all penalties correctly and the committee agreed. There were a total of 38 problems for the period.

APPEALS/PROBLEMS:

Problem No. 5 – Men Week 1; Helsby contact GD asking if a woman could play in the league to fulfil fixture – advised no. Later said found a man but turned up with only 2 men. Penalty applied correctly.

Problem No. 12 – Week 2; Birkenhead assumed player was registered having played 1st match un-registered. Not the case. Need to positively register the player. This has been raised in the past – penalty applied correctly. Club responsibility emphasised as per previous meetings, not individual. GD raised he felt this to be a spurious appeal in the circumstances this could have meant the penalty be increased. It was reiterated how much time it takes GD to deal with problems. Highlighting this to clubs agreed to be important.

Problem No. 13, Men Week 2; Problem 30 was discussed with this problem. Chris Hopewell queried the gentleman's agreement on ranking. Rank taken from mixed league – raised difficulty of players playing different nights in mens. GD said this was unfair on opposition. Person in the first team mixed can play one team down in the mens but only one player. AGM was against clarifying the rule further. Thorndale set out their intention hoping to develop other players. MW suggested using the friendly matches in that way. GD confirmed ranking stays the same for rest of season. Advised can raise at AGM if someone proposes it. Penalty applied correctly.

Problem No. 17, Week 3; only 7 teams in Division 6. Birkenhead have 2 teams in Division 6. GD e-mailed Birkenhead to ask for who would have been playing in their 3rd team had they had a match. 3rd team players played as 4th team. A week later GD received a card from Tom Randle specifying the 3rd team. GD not had chance to check the ranking. No appeal received directly. If there are 2 teams in same division and 1 team has no game that week, the club must send in a card with who would have played in the team with no game. Consideration was given to a penalty. 4 point penalty applied to Birkenhead 4 who essentially had no team.

Problem No. 24 and 25, Week 4; These problems were considered together. Thorndale explained the position they were in – election that week affecting court availability at Bidston (overflow for Thorndale). Bad weather arose affecting play. Thorndales courts were to be painted, they had a launch day which is a commitment of a grant, British Tennis Weekend etc. There was a discussion that weekend evenings could be offered but Neston understandably not keen. Tried to be fair offering other times. GD sympathised but difficulty if bend the rules – could have found courts somewhere. 3 week rule there for

good reason. Eventually played on 15 June. MW had raised in email correspondence whether both clubs should be penalised as Neston took a date offered outside of rules. KP felt team offering dates should have a higher penalty than other team. Committee agreed on this first occasion 2 point penalty to Thorndale, 1 point to Neston. In future, likely implement a standard 4 and 2 point penalty for this. MW suggested if a club can't offer 3 dates in 3 weeks, all rubbers could be given to other club. Harsh but fair for the future potentially.

Problem No. 26, Week 4; Team chose another date but not offered 3 effective dates. Penalty 1 to Oxton, 0 to Wallasey Manor on this occasion.

Problem No. 30, Week 5; Dealt with at problem 13.

Problem No. 31, Men Week 5; GD had to look at registered players to see who the player might be. Not readable and shouldn't have to try and make presumptions. Penalty 1 point agreed.

Problem No. 33, Men Week 7; Just noting that fixtures cannot be rearranged except as provided for in the Rules further to query from Hoylake captain. Penalty correct.

Problem No. 34, Week 7; Recorded it again – now know not played it again. Team were told to record score twice (as on previous card the score was noted) – Neston marked the card to say not completed. 1 point penalty to Thorndale, 0 to Neston. Stress to Clubs that if card not agreed, need to note on the card. Correctly done by Neston here.

Problem No. 37, Week 7; Leave as 1 point penalty until card received. WM1 adamant posted on time. GD has a provisional score provided by Neston. Need to recreate card.

Problem No. 38, Week 7; Thorndale said posted on time – postmarked correctly when received. No penalty applied.

3.1 **Matters arising from review of Problems**

The committee wanted to send a strong message to all teams that poor communication and organisation leads to lots of extra work for the committee and avoidable penalties for the teams concerned. Furthermore, continued or repeated recurrence of these types of problems or spurious and unsupported appeals will lead to increases in the penalties being applied in the future.

Clubs should ensure all team captains are aware of the Rules and apply them accordingly to try and avoid problems. If anyone wishes to propose any change to the Rules, this must be proposed for the AGM.

Clubs are reminded to play as clubs, not individual teams within a club. If a higher team is short of players, players should be moved up.

Two issues had been mentioned for discussion prior to CM1.

4.0 Fixture Secretary's Report (Geoff Dewhurst)

- 4.1.1 38 problems in the first 7 weeks is still too many, only a slight reduction on this period last year and causes a lot of difficulty for GD. As above, reminder to clubs to try and avoid this. Clubs need to **know the rules**. GD received 2 complaints – 1 in relation to playing under floodlights at Neston and one problem where rubbers are down as played where may not have been.
- 4.1.2 This referred to issue at Neston. Rule is such that if a team can't play (eg, poor weather and grass courts un-playable), bottom team don't play. 1st team on this occasion at Neston took the grass courts. Due to light, needed floodlights. Oxton were on the astro courts with floodlights and one pair were waiting to start the other straight rubber to finish to commence mixed. Someone from Neston was reported to be rude in expressing to Oxton that Neston 1 would take priority on the court that was free. Oxton ended up with a rubber un-played. KP raised the point that the Rules say if a court is free, it can be used. Rule 8.8.2 is the relevant rule to consider. Rule needs further clarification. Discussion took place about allocating courts at clubs where not all courts available. Will review rule at AGM.
- 4.1.3 Other issue was Oxton overhearing Neston and their opposition agreeing to halve rubbers un-played. Between Neston and Heswall in 1st Division. GD to e-mail both clubs. Review CM2.
- 4.1.4 Committee agreed transfer of Chris Russell to Heswall from Wallasey Manor for 2nd half season.
- 4.1.5 Request received from Mike Scolah to transfer from Upton to Wallasey Manor. He coaches at both clubs and wanted to split his play between them. CM1 unanimously rejected this scenario. Could play for men at different club is so wishes.
- 4.1.6 Due to the Open Golf at Hoylake, emails will be sent out by Hoylake to clubs affected regarding parking restrictions etc.
- 4.1.7 Discussion re England game on same time as match 9 due to start. Agreed 6.40pm start (match to start by 7pm so as not to incur a penalty). Players need to be at the club ready to start after the match. If people want to play earlier, can agree to.
- 4.1.8 Request from Heswall that clubs provide a vegetarian option. MW said he thinks there should be a further look at AGM regarding disparity in quality of food offered by clubs.

- 4.1.9 Still time to run ladies league with the 3 teams entered – only 4 matches each. Has Oxton , Thorndale and Upton down as wanting to take part – those teams to e-mail Geoff to advise if still wish to take part. There is a shield!
- 4.1.10 Re-emphasise third set tiebreaks must apply across the team and agreed before the match. Record championship tiebreak scores as e.g. 10/8 NOT 7/6.

5.0 Play offs/Presentation Evening

- 5.1 Hoylake, Thorndale and Heswall had offered to host the play offs. It was confirmed that Thorndale (in conjunction with Bidston tennis centre) had kindly offered to host the play offs and presentation evening and further to a very impressive bid CM1 agreed they should host this year. A date had been agreed for 6th September 2013. There will be a 9am start for the play offs – a schedule is attached to the minutes. Geoff will also send out e-mail details nearer the time. It was agreed CM2 will take place asap after the last match so no issues are left unresolved before the play offs.

There will be 7 playoffs – 5 mixed and 2 mens. Player eligibility will be to have played in at least 25% matches for that team or played in a lower team. 2nd half ranking is applied. If a match is incomplete on the play off date, the match will be played at the runner up venue on subsequent Saturdays after 6th September. Only 2 sets are played. Can be decided on games won if equal on sets. If there are not enough eligible players, rubbers will be lost. Balls will be provided by the league.

A buffet and presentation evening is to follow. The schedule for the playoffs will be tight but should finish at approximately 5pm.

Plan to build up to highest Division play off at the end of the day. If problem weather, agreed to have slots. If match starts and rain stops it, if slot no longer available, next match starts and other match to re-commence from score left at on subsequent Saturday. Can use a different player within the rules. Teams need to be there 15 minutes before their slot. On subsequent Saturdays, matches to play at Runner up venue 2pm unless otherwise agreed. Consideration of a spectacle match between 1st and 2nd in Division to be considered.

6.0 Any other business

- 6.1 2 clubs not paid fees on time – Helsby and Pinewood. Pinewood have paid fine. Helsby appealed – they said payment made on day should have been received but was received a day later. Pinewood not paid fine for non-attendance either for AGM but not reinforcing that in light of their payment of £70 fine.
- Mw said couldn't have been clearer in reminders out that had to be received on the specified date. Extra work fro the Treasurer chasing this up. All agreed to uphold the fine for Helsby.

With a restriction on the numbers that can attend the presentation the best way to allocate tickets was discussed and will be agreed at CM2. Last year the following was agreed. Each of the standing committee members will get an option to purchase 2 each and the remainder to be divided by the clubs in the league as follows: 1-2 teams in the league 4 tickets, 3-5 teams in the league 6 tickets and clubs with more than 5 teams in the league 8 tickets. A date will be set for clubs to take and pay for their tickets with any unsold tickets being offered on a first come first served basis thereafter. Payment arrangements and allocations will be published on the website nearer the time. There will only be a small charge this year for this more informal event. Subsidy from WTL last year was £575.

Agreed if ladies league runs, only £10 entry per team.

6.2 Meeting closed 9.25pm

Distribution

Committee via email

Clubs via email to nominated contacts and upload to website

L Wilson-Jarvis – WTL Secretary