

Wirral Tennis League

Minutes of Committee Meeting 2

13 August 2014

Held at Port Sunlight 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:

Chris Hopewell (Thorndale), Lesley Cubbin (Thorndale), Dan Edwards (Prenton).

1.2 The following apologies were received:

Val McIndoe (Thorndale), Julia Bond (Upton), Julie Riseley (Heswall)

1.3 The following clubs were not represented at the meeting:

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

2.0 Matters Arising

None that are not on the Agenda for this meeting.

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

Ken believed Geoff had applied all penalties correctly subject to those which had been appealed and the committee agreed. There were a total of 28 problems for the period.

APPEALS:

Problem 18, Week 3; It was noted that we had not recorded the penalty applied – this was one point per team Wallasey Manor 3 and Birkenhead 4.

Problem No. 37 – Week 7; This was carried over from the first part of the season – eventually GD received a recreated card. The committee accepted that the card had been posted – no penalty applied.

Problem No. 46 – Week 9 Men; The match was played on a later date than scheduled (played on 6 July). Rule 12.1 applies. Committee agreed open day would be known about in advance. Considered that Oxton agreed in naivety. Game considered invalid and recorded 0-0. Wallasey Manor 2 given 2 point penalty. Oxton 2 given 1 point penalty.

Problem No. 50, Week 10 Men; GD had to go and pay to collect the card – the Post Office said the stamp had apparently been used before! Helsby may wish to reimburse GD.

Problem No. 67, Week 14; Port Sunlight 2 man did not show up. Discussion regarding genuine belief he was playing, other matches had started and could not move players up by then, no separate penalty, covered by losing the matches not turned up for in such circumstances.

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. The responsibility for the running of teams lies with the Club.

- 3.2 Neston 1 v Heswall 1 – Match 2, Division 1 Mixed league. This related to a discussion noted in WTL CM1 2014 minutes under 4.1.3.

Ken noted that there was good evidence that the teams had cheated and had suggested a very large penalty. It was discussed that the problem was already covered under Rule 5, Appendix A. The teams would have their scores recorded as 0-0 for those matches un-played and noted as halved. 8 point penalty applied to each team. The committee noted their disappointment in the teams involved.

There was concern that this showed the people involved having no regard for the Rules. It was concerning that this appears to happen more often than the league knows about and there was a strong message that this is unacceptable. If clubs don't agree with the Rules, they should propose a change to the AGM.

It was proposed that the penalty could be increased to a whole match score penalty if this is uncovered in the future.

Matter to be put to AGM.

Also Ken noted that the men's league gives a large amount of problems and may need to consider if need a set day for matches.

4.0 Fixture Secretary's Report (Geoff Dewhurst)

28 problems in the second half of the season is still too many and causes a lot of difficulty for Geoff. This was a reduction from 31 problems in the first half of the season and a reduction overall from last year. As above, reminder to clubs to try and avoid this. Main issues are poor admin by some clubs, poor result card completion and in some cases, poor commitment by some clubs to getting teams out.

GD was disappointed that some clubs contravene the Rules then complain about the penalty. The Rules are there to ensure the league runs effectively and the same applies to every club. There were fewer 'no shows' of teams.

Congratulations to the winners of each division. It was nice to see 9 divisions won by 8 different clubs. The winners are noted on the WTL website.

5.0 Play offs Rules/Schedule

- 5.1 There will be 6 playoffs – 5 mixed and 1 mens. Player eligibility will be to have played in **at least 4 matches for that team or in a lower team (3 for Mixed league division 6)** this season. 2nd half ranking is applied. If a player has not played in the 2nd half, 1st half ranking will apply to them. 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 deemed a walk over. Balls will be provided by the league.

Players can play in more than one play off if eligible.

A buffet and presentation evening is to follow at Thorndale. The schedule will be tight but should finish at approximately 5pm. Matt Webb will be sending out by e-mail information regarding ticket allocations and payment to Club contacts.

The play off schedule and rules are on the WTL website. Clubs MUST note the details of the schedule and Rules. The matches are split between Bidston (3 outdoor courts) and Thorndale. Please the FULL team need to be present at the start time for the playoffs regardless of possible differing start time at Bidston for a match. Teams must be present 15 minutes before their team start time and only 5 minutes are permitted for a warm up to ensure matches progress appropriately.

If a Club cannot field a team for a match due to lack of eligible players, please inform Geoff Dewhurst as soon as possible.

5.2 Sue Edwards and Ken Patrick will officiate at Thorndale. Louise Wilson-Jarvis and Geoff Dewhurst will officiate at Bidston. GD will obtain balls and label for teams.

5.3 Presentation Evening

Email will be sent to Club contact with ticket allocations, agreed as per last years allocation. £5 per head charge, League subsidising £5 per head. Maximun 80 people. Any lesser allocation taken up by clubs will be offered to those wishing to have more tickets on a first come first served basis. There will be no payment on the night, clubs must ensure payment received prior to the night in accordance with Matt's e-mail. Also, names of those attending will need to be provided to ensure capacity is not exceeded on the night. There will be a buffet and a disco.

Tickets will be allocated to people on the door as last year and will count as a raffle ticket also. MW to obtain prizes. Thorndale arranging the catering, entertainment and bar staff etc.

There is a proposed fastest serve competition with a maximum of 2 men and 2 women from each club – people can take part after the play offs finish or can bring their trainers to the evening event and do it then!

6.0 AOB

6.1 Chris Lee of Heswall had asked about whether there should be a change to reflect the fact that a team who win all their matches may not win the division. Committee considered WTL has always been won on points not matches. Agreed it balances best that way. Every point counts.

6.2 Noted praise for the 3rd Division mixed league where no penalty points were incurred.

- 6.3 2 clubs incurred no penalties – Prenton and Bertram – well done!
- 6.4 Committee noted disappointment more clubs do not attend committee meetings as this may help clubs to better implement the league Rules whilst also reflecting their club position on matters arising in the league.
- 6.5 Noted issue of some aggression by one player to another in Week 9 where a late start was permitted. This arose out of a communication issue. Consensus that such behaviour is not acceptable and club (Port Sunlight) confirmed they would take up the issue internally.
- 6.6 Val McIndoe will sort trophies and badges for the presentation evening.

7.0 Points for AGM

- 7.1 Standard of tea provision and courtesy of telling clubs if players known not to be staying or not returning from another venue. Chris Hopewell agreed to create a proforma for captains/contacts to complete.
- 7.2 Ken Patrick is retiring in August and moving to Scotland so a new chairman will need to be elected at the AGM. Clubs to notify of any candidates in accordance with the Rules. Committee noted their thanks to Ken.
- 7.3 Review of Rule 8.8.2 as noted in CM 2014 minutes.
- 7.4 Consideration of penalty potentially increased for contravention of Rule 5 Appendix A.

Distribution

Committee via email

Clubs via email to nominated contacts and upload to website

L Wilson-Jarvis – WTL Secretary