

Minutes of the Wirral Tennis League AGM held at Thorndale on Wednesday 4th November 2015 at 8pm

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** – Margaret Dooley **Cheshire Oaks** – No representative **Helsby**- No representative **Heswall** – Julie Risely **Hooton** – Danielle Slater **Hoylake** – Claire Miller **Neston** – Tony Lydiate **North Cheshire** – Mike Kenny **Oxton** – Caroline Child **Pinewood** – No representative **Port Sunlight** – David Jarvis **Prenton** – Mark Powers **Thorndale** – Lesley Cubbin **Upton** – Mike Fryer and **Wallasey Manor** - Alison Loader and Nicky Smith.
Helsby, Cheshire Oaks 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 & Treasurer – Matt Webb (Oxton). **Secretary** – Louise Wilson-Jarvis (Port Sunlight), **Fixture Secretary** – Geoff Dewhurst (Upton), **Committee** - Sue Edwards (Prenton), Mark Powers, (Prenton),, Chris Hopewell (Thorndale), Val McIndoe (Thorndale)

2.0 Apologies

2.1 Dave Bullimore, Cheshire Oaks

3.0 Acceptance of last year's AGM minutes:

3.1 The minutes of last year's AGM dated Monday 25 November 2014 were proposed and seconded and accepted as a true record by the meeting.

4.0 Matters Arising

None

5.0 Chairpersons Report 2015

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

Matt noted that this was the WTL's 38th season and was another great year of competition.

Matt thanked all of the clubs partaking in the league. Thanks to Heswall for holding a great play off event and presentation evening. The play offs have become a great fixture in the league calendar.

Matt reminded attendees that when making appeals, they are representing their Club. Help will be offered by the Committee wherever possible. If the Committee gives guidance, they are only trying to help the Club and we want the League to work with clubs, not against them. The Rules will be applied with fairness and perspective but if spurious appeals then penalty points will be applied. 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 noted the original website was set up by Geoff Dewhurst. There are plans to bring all tennis occurring in Wirral under the WTL website, including the Wirral tankard and more about the West Cheshire Winter League and junior tennis. The LTA support the initiative. They will match funding up to £1000. Chris Hopewell is supporting the initiative with his expertise.

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

6.0 Fixture Secretary's Report 2015

6.1 Geoff Dewhurst presented the 'Fixture Secretary's Report 2015' 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.

Disappointingly a large number of unfulfilled fixtures this season. 72 teams in WTL this season.

Clubs to check contacts are up to date and inform of any changes. Registrations will be left online. Reminder to clubs to delete anyone who is not a member.

Reminder to clubs to 'KNOW THE RULES'.

Ladies league only has 4 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. GD has spoken to the LTA and hopes this will be available by next year. Discussion regarding a need for a lead in time for that. May be changes to registration requirements.

Congratulations to all division winners and to teams gaining promotion and commiserations to teams relegated. Teams for re-election are Birkenhead 4 – Mixed; Port Sunlight 3 – Mixed; Oxton 3 – Mixed; Wallasey Manor 1 - Men; Upton 2 - Men; Oxton 2 - Men; Oxton 2 - Ladies.

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

7.0 Treasurer's Report 2015

7.1 Matt Webb had prepared and circulated 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, playoffs, expenses as incurred and any agreed subsidy for the presentation evenings). Accounts have been circulated 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.

Subs proposed to be kept the same this year. Matt hopes to be able to upgrade the account for online banking.

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

8.0 Matter's arising from WTL CM3:

8.1 None

9.0 Notices of motion

9.1 Proposal to only play third set championship tiebreaks removing the option of a full 3rd set. Carried 14 to 0.

9.2 We have 9.2.1 and 9.2.2 from the Agenda to consider. Issues of unfulfilled fixtures have affected positions in the league. It would be a penalty of 1 point per rubber that is not fulfilled. To apply to mixed/mens/ladies leagues.

9.2.1 Equivalent of 3 matches not fulfilled, record to be expunged - Carried 12 to 0

9.2.2 Discussion around this as a deterrent given problems arising. Discussion about there being greater benefit to structuring friendlies better. Teams will not be allowed re-election if not fulfilling equivalent of 3 matches for 2 consecutive seasons. Carried 12 to 0. 2 abstained. Starts from now, not to include 2015 season.

9.3 Discussion re proposal to have a single day for ladies/mens leagues. For the mens league, 1 in favour, 10 against, 3 abstained, motion denied. For the ladies league, 0 in favour, 7 against, rest abstained, motion denied.

- 9.4** Lengthy discussion re this motion relating to court use and where higher teams play. 3in favour, 10 against, 5 abstained, motion denied. WTL committee will inspect courts outside of club venues to ensure up to scratch.

10.0 Teams Applying for Re-election to the League:

- 10.1 Birkenhead 4 wished to be re-elected to Division 6. Re-elected.
- 10.2 Port Sunlight 3 were re-elected by the meeting.
- 10.3 Oxton 3 were re-elected by the meeting.
- 10.4 Wallasey Manor 1 Men were re-elected by the meeting.
- 10.5 Oxton 2 men were not seeking re-election.
- 10.6 Upton 2 men were re-elected by the meeting.
- 10.7 Oxton 2 ladies were not seeking re-election.

11.0 Election of Officers

All committee members were happy to stand for re-election and were elected.

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 (same as Chair currently) 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.

12.0 Presentation Evening 2016 and Play Offs

It was agreed this would take place on Saturday 3 September 2016.

Proposals for holding the play offs were received from Bertram/Alderley combined, Birkenhead and Heswall. A vote was held and the combined Bertram/Alderley bid was successful. Thanks to the other venues for offering.

13.0 Any other Business

- 13.1 A proposal of thanks to the Committee was made, especially to Geoff Dewhurst.
- 13.2 With no other matters arising Matt thanked all the club representatives and members of the committee for their attendance and continued support and at 9.20pm declared the 2015 WTL AGM closed.

Louise Wilson-Jarvis
Wirral Tennis League Secretary.