

# Wirral Tennis League

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## Minutes of Committee Meeting 2

15 June 2015

Held at Birkenhead LTC

### 1. Present/Apologies

1.1 The following WTL committee members were in attendance:

Matt Webb – Chairman and Treasurer (Oxton), Geoff Dewhurst – Fixture Secretary (Upton), Louise Wilson-Jarvis – Secretary (Port Sunlight), Mark Powers (Prenton), Sue Edwards (Prenton), Chris Hopewell (Thorndale)

The following representatives attended on behalf of their clubs:

Caroline Child (Oxton), Lesley Cubbin (Thorndale), Dan Edwards (Prenton), Rob Evans (Alderley), Sam Evans (Alderley), Margaret Dooley (Birkenhead), Tony Lydiate (Neston), Kristina Wojtak (Bertram)

1.2 The following apologies were received:

Val McIndoe (Committee – Thorndale) Heswall and Upton Clubs

1.3 The following clubs were not represented at the meeting:

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

### 2.0 Matters Arising

None

### 3.0 Problems and Appeals

Matt Webb used the following procedure (as used 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

Problems 1 – 6, 8 – 10, 12 – 31 and 33 were deemed to be applied correctly and no appeals raised. There were a total of 33 problems for the period.

## **APPEALS/PROBLEMS:**

**Problem No. 7 – Week 1;** Appeal allowed from Hooton – no penalty

**Problem No. 11 – Men Week 2;** Neston were present to explain their position. Neston were contacted and advised the courts were not fit due to rain (other matches took place that day). 4 names were given from Neston to WM1. No date was given over the phone. Neston accepted they could have asked for this but no date was offered over the phone. The rules state that 3 dates should be given to the away team by the home team and entered on the card by the home team and the away club must accept one of those dates within 3 days and email all home club contacts and GD. Agreed both clubs at fault. MW raised concern that this was a premature call off as the teams were not there and other clubs played that night, including Thorndale less than a mile away. Dates should have been offered, and if not, they should have been asked for. WM1 gave dates to GD but not Neston contacts. It was mentioned that WM1 have not raised a team on 3 occasions this season so far. MW confirmed on the whole he would encourage the team to attend – home captain say is final regarding play in poor weather.

Agreed to allow to replay the match and 4 point penalty each. To be played within 3 weeks of the CM2. GD will contact the clubs – WM1 to offer 3 dates within 48 hours, Neston to accept a date within 3 days of that.

**Problem No. 32, Men Week 7;** Alderley said posted as usual. Postmarked 11/12 June (hard to see second digit). Was mis-sorted it seems. Appeal accepted. No penalty.

### **3.1 Matters arising from review of Problems**

Rob from Alderley raised concerns re a match against Neston. They travelled to Neston thinking the match was to be played. The grass courts were not cut properly nor lined so there was no prospect of playing. This followed the bank holiday at the start of the season. Alderley felt unfair to have 8 players travel with no prospect of playing. Neston were of the view they could not call it off. Agreed that on the whole would expect a team to travel if unsure re courts playability following rain. Different with grass. Agreed don't want a precedent about not travelling to matches. Considered if Neston at fault due to no prep of the courts. Occurred due to grounds man usually doing this on a Monday but not as it was a bank holiday and then too wet. Agreed acceptable in these circumstances for Neston to call off the match, albeit they didn't – rare occurrence. Fixture was replayed. Only Upton, Neston and north Cheshire likely to be significantly affected by this. Can call off in exceptional in advance in circumstances.

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.

#### **4.0 Fixture Secretary's Report (Geoff Dewhurst)**

- 4.1.1 33 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**.

#### **5.0 Play offs/Presentation Evening**

- 5.1 Heswall are to host the play offs and presentation evening. They are to confirm details to the committee. A date had been agreed for 5<sup>th</sup> September 2015. There will be a 9am start for the play offs. Geoff will also send out e-mail details nearer the time. It was agreed CM3 will take place asap after the last match so no issues are left unresolved before the play offs. Details for play offs details in Minutes of CM1 2015.

#### **6.0 Any other business**

- 6.1 Sue Edwards picked up a couple of issues from review of the scorecards in week 5. Noted should be 2 point penalty for lack of 2 men. Also different tie break scores recorded i.e. some from 7 and some from 10 in 3<sup>rd</sup> set. Birkenhead 2 v Pinewood 1 – penalty 1 point each.
- 6.2 Wallasey Manor had asked to play their second pair at Birkenhead Park when two teams at home. GD had originally said ok to this but the meeting did not agree at this point in the season. Issues were raised about toilet facilities. Also raised if any matches unfinished at Wallasey Manor previously would be unfair on teams potentially in earlier part of the season (checked and no unfulfilled fixtures). Noted other clubs had alternatives at the start of the season. Want to be helpful and encourage tennis. Meeting was concerned regarding late notice. Decided Wallasey Manor can propose an alternative for next year at the end of the season which can be considered for suitability then.
- 6.3 GD raised concerns regarding the number of matches conceded. Consider re-election of team carefully this year.
- 6.4 Issue of different days for mens and ladies league and less rules – more problems than mixed league.
- 6.5 Chris Hopewell noted event at Thorndale 4 July 2015 BBQ and interclub quiz in the evening and an active away fun coaching day.
- 6.6 Sadness noted at death of Rosemary Waddington – memorial details provided by Birkenhead.
- 6.7 Meeting closed 9pm

#### **Distribution**

**Committee via email**

**Clubs via email to nominated contacts and upload to website**

**L Wilson-Jarvis – WTL Secretary**