

Wirral Tennis League

Minutes of 2015 Committee Meeting 3

Monday 17 August 2015 @ 8pm

Held at Heswall 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), Sue Edwards (Prenton), Chris Hopewell (Thorndale), Val McIndoe (Thorndale)

The following representatives attended on behalf of their clubs:

Caroline Child (Oxton), Lesley Cubbin (Thorndale), Dan Edwards (Prenton), Tony Lydiate (Neston), Sylvia Reed (Heswall)

1.2 The following apologies were received:

Mark Powers (Prenton) Margaret Dooley (Birkenhead) John Simpson (Heswall)
Michael Fryer (Upton) Wallasey Manor Club

1.3 The following clubs were not represented at the meeting:

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

2.0 **Minutes** of last meeting agreed. No matters arising.

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

Problem 64 was the only issue to require further consideration. All other penalties applied correctly. There were a total of 44 problems for the period.

APPEALS/PROBLEMS:

Problem No. 64 – Week 12; Birkenhead4 fielded a full contingent of men while Birkenhead3 had played short of men 3&4 (no names on the card). The rubbers were also shown as awarded to Birkenhead3 as Oxton3 were men short. Rubber scores for Birkenhead3 men changed to 0-0 (from 6-0). PortSunlight3 awarded rubbers because Birkenhead4 men should have played for Birkenhead3 (ie played out of ranking order) and result of PortSunlight3 v Birkenhead4 amended accordingly. Birkenhead4 also penalised 4 points (ranking)

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 (as in Appendix A – penalties).

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 in accordance with the timescale within Rule 2.4 (1st October) for any Notices of Motion.

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 Still too many problems. As above, reminder to clubs to try and avoid this. Clubs need to **know the rules**. This year there have been a lot of problems with teams not being complete. WTL always wishes to support tennis being played so normally teams are re-elected without much discussion but perhaps there needs to be more consideration of this. GD suggested that clubs could be told they need to fulfil so many matches or they wouldn't be re-elected for 2017 season
- 4.1.2 There was discussion that perhaps clubs should not be given a year. It was noted that some teams had not been able to fulfil their fixtures for a number of years now. Some teams have had difficulties for the first time. Incomplete teams one week and complete teams another can significantly affect the results in the division and makes a mockery of the league system.
- 4.1.3 There was a discussion about whether results should be expunged after so many matches not completed, and/or a financial penalty
- 4.1.4 It will be put to AGM that if a team doesn't fulfil the equivalent of 4 fixtures in a season, their record will be expunged. If this happens 2 seasons in a row, this will lead to the team not being allowed re-election for the following season. Will consider a financial penalty for next season. This will be put to AGM for consideration and a vote on whether to apply retrospectively or not to include 2015.
- 4.1.5 GD raised a possible ranking issue for Thorndale 2 and 3. Week 8 Thorndale3 beat Thorndale2 and also produced better results than Thorndale2 for the 2nd half of season. Suggested that Thorndale looks at this for next season.
- 4.1.6 Congratulations to the winners of the mixed league divisions, men's league divisions and ladies league. All results and winners are listed on the WTL website. Nice to see 8 different clubs winning trophies this year. Hoylake being the only club to win 2 divisions. The winners were in order of division: Hoylake1 Alderley1 Upton1 Pinewood1 Heswall4 Hooton2 Men Prenton1 Hoylake1 Ladies Thorndale1.

5.0 Play offs/Presentation Evening

- 5.1 Heswall are to host the play offs and presentation evening on 5th September 2015. Thanks to them for hosting. There will be a 9am start for the play offs. The schedule has already been circulated and no problems identified. GD emphasised the need for players to be there in

plenty of time in accordance with the play off Rules. There is no grace at all if players are late. Players must also bring their results to the control point as soon as they are finished. Captains must give teams confidentially in order (which then cannot be changed) to organisers 15 minutes before scheduled start of match. Rules of ranking from second half of the season apply. Reminder: check player eligibility.

- 5.2 Reminder to clubs to answer re ticket allocation if want to take tickets up. Will need to confirm and pay. It would be nice to see clubs who have won trophies represented.
- 5.3 SE, GD and LW-J will do the admin on the day of the play offs. MW and SR (Heswall) to liaise re the arrangements for the presentation evening. GD will organise some different prizes – noted that previous years prizes have not been fully taken up.

6.0 Any other business

- 6.1 MW raised the issue of problems throughout the season and emails relating to these. Clear not seeking to dissuade people from appealing but the WTL committee look to try and assist clubs where possible. Discussed that anyone responding to the League relating to problems should note that they are representing their Club and any appeal deemed by the committee to be spurious can increase penalties. MW will raise at AGM.
- 6.2 MW raised that Wirral Tankard will be brought under the WTL umbrella and possibly the Winter League also. Thanks to John Simpson for his 18 years service running the Wirral Tankard. If all run through one website will be more efficient and easier for people to find information.
- 6.3 MW raised that he hopes to update the website.
- 6.4 There are meetings being run by the LTA on 9 September at Oxton club relating to Tennismark.
- 6.5 Virtually all 3rd sets used match tiebreak and therefore match tiebreak 3rd sets will be proposed as a Rule change at AGM taking away the current choice of a full 3rd set.
- 6.6 CH proposed to have the mens/ladies league run over 1 or 2 days to try and avoid the issues that arise currently. Reason: causes problems for clubs with more than 1 team with matches on different days particularly when lower teams play earlier than higher teams and also matches on different days of the week means some clubs are reluctant to enter teams. Put to AGM.
- 6.7 Also proposed that the WTL could start a week earlier. Also missing out certain key dates e.g bank holidays. Put to AGM.
- 6.8 Meeting closed.

Distribution

Committee via email

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L Wilson-Jarvis – WTL Secretary