

## Minutes of the Wirral Tennis League AGM held at Birkenhead on Thursday 1 December 2016 at 7.30pm

### 1.0 Roll call of Club Representatives

1.1 The meeting was attended by the following club representatives:

**Alderley** – Mark Goodchild **Bertram** – Paul Evans, Dave Martin **Birkenhead** – Margaret Dooley, Tom Randall **Cheshire Oaks** – Kevin Cliffe **Helsby** – Steve Frewley **Heswall** – Julie Risely, Sue Paton **Hooton** – Kevin Thompson **Hoylake** – Clair Miller **Neston** – Kathy Clifford **North Cheshire** – Richard Wilberforce **Oxton** – Caroline Child **Pinewood** – Peter Graham **Port Sunlight** – Daniel Holbrook **Prenton** – Debbie Jones, Dan Edwards **Thorndale** – Lesley Cubbin **Upton** – Sandie Craze, Adam McGarry and **Wallasey Manor** - Ali Loader, Nicky Smith.

1.2 The following WTL Committee members were present:

**Chairperson** – Matt Webb (Oxton). **Secretary** – Louise Wilson-Jarvis (Port Sunlight), **Fixture Secretary** – Geoff Dewhurst (Upton), **Treasurer** – Matt Webb (Oxton), Sue Edwards (Prenton), Mark Powers (Prenton), Chris Hopewell (Thorndale), Val McIndoe (Thorndale)

### 2.0 Apologies

2.1 Barbara Bloor (Heswall) Norman Nelson (Port Sunlight) Pam Kloeseman (Hoylake) and Winter league only clubs **University of Chester** – Ben Clarke **Mersey Bowmen** – Victoria Kearns

### 3.0 Acceptance of last year's AGM minutes:

3.1 The minutes of last year's AGM dated Wednesday 30 November 2015 were proposed by Debbie Jones and seconded by Clair Miller and accepted as a true record by the meeting.

### 4.0 Matters Arising

None

### 5.0 Chairperson's Report 2016

Well done to all division winners. Well done and thanks to Prenton for running the Wirral Tankard finals – well received. Plate was a successful competition and seemed to be a popular addition. Smaller clubs able to have a chance of success. Good addition to the competition.

WTL started running the winter league to simplify the admin under one umbrella. Good start. Very few matches not played. Thanks to Norman Nelson for running the winter league for so many years no one can remember!

Thanks to Alderley and Bertram for holding play offs. Weather poor but a great effort from the clubs. Courts well presented and club houses looked great. Festival of tennis was great to see. Evening do well received too.

Thanks to WTL committee. Special thanks to Geoff who was recognised by the LTA this year at an awards ceremony receiving the volunteer award (Cheshire LTA Colours). Well done!

Looking to the future, 2 things ongoing. Firstly, potential to update website. CH to help. Functions well but would like it more up to date. All we need is there. Secondly, tying into clubspark and LTA sites. Would like 3 sections clear i.e winter, summer and tankard. May include the junior league in time.

## **6.0 Fixture Secretary's Report 2016**

- 6.1 Geoff Dewhurst presented the 'Fixture Secretary's Report 2016' 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.

9 titles at stake in the summer, won by 7 different clubs. GD quoted Tony Lydiate 1988 - 'Know the rules and avoid problems'.

47 mixed, 22 men's teams, 4 ladies teams making total 73 teams. In 2003 there were 50 teams in total – therefore a big increase. Be good to have another two teams in mixed league to make a full complement.

If we maintain the number of men's teams we will be able to make a third division. Suggested veterans league over last few years open to any suggested format (eg over age 50/60?, mixed? morning/afternoon? format (eg 1 or 2 sets)). There has been interest from a couple of clubs but not enough as yet. Remains open to club interested.

Disappointed the last match scheduled for Bertram pressured to play indoors at Bidston to finish play offs. If stayed then would have finished earlier as did the final match at Alderley.

Remember we have a Facebook page for information. Problems much better this year. Only just over half the year before. The main disappointment related to teams not fulfilling complete fixtures.

## **7.0 Treasurer's Report 2016**

- 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, trophy engraving, 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.

Income expanded as winter league under WTL now. Tankard a loss leader as got new trophies for that and the Plate. Proposal to increase fees to cover costs to lead to a small surplus.

Likely will need to buy more shields for winter league looking at the only one MW has seen. If buy 7-10, will look at outlay approx £1000 for ones that last. Been building a reserve £2297 currently. May need £1000 for website. If buy website and trophies, still ok.

Consider scope for winter league presentation night – could potentially subsidise tickets. Could do two or combine the two for summer and winter. If wanted for winter would increase to £15. Consider later in meeting. Proposed:

- Summer league – no change to subscriptions.
- Wirral tankard proposed to increase from £5 to £10 – 16 in favour, no one against. Carried.
- Winter league proposed to increase to £12 from £10 – leaving until later to consider presentation evening.

The accounts and above proposals were proposed by Clair Miller, seconded by Chris Hopewell and were unanimously accepted.

#### **8.0 Matter's arising from WTL CM3:**

None

#### **9.0 Notices of motion**

None

#### **10.0 Teams Applying for Re-election to the League:**

- 10.1 Mixed – none due to Birkenhead 4 withdrawal.
- 10.2 Upton 2 wish to reapply – unanimously accepted
- 10.3 Oxton 1 – wish to reapply – unanimously accepted.

#### **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 has 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 3 time a year: before start of season, just over half way through the season and after end with a quorum for any meeting being 4 members.

#### **12.0 Presentation Evening 2017 and Play Offs**

**12.1** Date will be 2 September 2017 (from Rules). Proposed to move the date. Mixed views on doing this at AGM but decided to put forward to vote. For keeping 2<sup>nd</sup> sep – 5. Change to 9<sup>th</sup> – 9. Carried 9 people to 5. Changed to 9<sup>th</sup> September. Amend Rules to decide date at AGM.

**12.2** Play offs. Prenton offered to host. Will be held at Prenton.

**12.3** Presentation evening venue - Prenton also.

**12.4** Rule refinements proposed by GD:

**12.4.1** reason for 12.4.1 and 12.4.2 is because originally play offs were to be first Tues after league finished and so players would only be able to play in one match. Also 12.4.3 suggested to play at host venue only as people went to Bidston this year to complete matches due to concerns about the weather – host club offers courts for whole day, prepare venue and put on refreshments and so should be played there. GD noted that if the players had waited, they would have finished earlier as weather and courts cleared. Provision for weather problems is to play the next Saturday.

CH felt it was unfair to some not able to play in more than one.

Proposal 12.4.1 - order is fixed for matches. Agreed.

Proposal 12.4.2 - can only play in one mixed match (can also play in mens or ladies playoff match) – 15 in favour. 1 against.

Proposal 12.4.3 – only play at host venue. 14 in favour – 1 against.

#### **13.0 Wirral Tankard**

**13.1** Dates proposed 8/15/22 Aug 2017 – agreed.

**13.2** Finals agreed to take place on 17 September 2017

**13.3** Thorndale and Hoylake offered to host the finals. Vote taken. Thorndale – 11. Hoylake – 10. Thorndale carried. Will need to adjust for the matches due to court numbers. 3 followed by 4. All will need to be there 15 mins before first event and events and courts drawn out of hat. 3 then 4 matches so result not decided in first session.

**13.4** See agenda proposed 13.1 to 13.4 – block vote – unanimously accepted

#### **14.0 Winter League**

“Main” suggested as ladies can play. However, agreed will be known as Wirral and Cheshire Winter League and Wirral and Cheshire Ladies Winter League.

GD raised problem of getting cards and standard of them. Can't understand why people missing sending them in and why quality so poor.

Pro forma on email and website so no excuse really for problems.

Re electronic version, LTA said could possibly accommodate our scoring system. Last time GD asked, someone said difficult. Quite complicated to set up. Spent time with Mark Nelson who runs for Cheshire juniors and found it difficult.

**14.2.1** Suggested re structure to 8 teams per division. There is a Liverpool team and Cheshire and Wirral league – suggestion to consider that differently. Put forward it is actually nearer than many of the Cheshire clubs. Different opinions on area. If restructure to this, then put that don't have to say Liverpool play home and away. Will consult on it. Vote on restructure of league – to 8 teams and home and away – 15 for. 4 against.

Possible playoff for winter – won't do for the current season. Keep in mind – talk about it and see what may want to do in future. Consider in meetings next year.

Would people like a separate winter league presentation, not have one or combine with summer presentation night? Thoughts are to have a presentation but incorporate into summer presentation this time and think about it.

Subscription for winter league proposed. It was raised looking at accounts, looks like pure surplus. MW explained all expenses not in accounts as not had them yet (detailed in notes on accounts) yet to pay out for engraving eg £400 for engraving trophies. Income over expenditure is surplus from summer league and £140 to winter but not showing expenses yet. In Jan - will have income of summer.

Also raised that Chester league are not going to renew trophies – will keep at presentation and have picture – small shield. Proposed consideration whether WTL should renew.

Trophies we buy last for 24 years. Liked overall. Decided will renew.

Proposal to increase winter figure £10 to £12 – not have separate presentation night – unanimously carried.

#### **15.0 Any other Business**

Someone raised they felt last year played on a couple of nights when not thought safe and felt obliged to play as travel to venue. Home captain to make decision – provided for in the Rules. Opposition had wanted to play.

Raised issue about having to go to venue if raining – if possible could we change it where they don't have to turn up. Not in Rules that people have to turn up. Element of trust there. Practicality should reign.

Meeting closed 8.48pm

**Louise Wilson-Jarvis**  
**Wirral Tennis League Secretary.**