

Wirral Tennis League

Minutes of Committee Meeting 3

17 August 2016

Held at Upton 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), Val McIndoe (Thorndale)

The following representatives attended on behalf of their clubs:

Caroline Child (Oxton), Lesley Cubbin (Thorndale), Sue Paton (Heswall), Julie Risely (Heswall), Alison Loader (Wallasey Manor), Joe Copeland (Wallasey Manor), Tom Randall (Birkenhead), Sue Paton (Heswall), Paul Evans (Alderley) Adam Kelly (Prenton), Dave Martin (Bertram).

1.2 The following apologies were received:

1.2.1 Margaret Dooley (Birkenhead), Richard Chiverrell (Birkenhead)

1.3 The following clubs were not represented at the meeting:

Cheshire Oaks, Helsby, Hooton, Hoylake, North Cheshire, Pinewood, Port Sunlight, Upton.

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

There were far fewer problems for the period than in previous years. MW had reviewed the problems and felt they applied correctly.

APPEALS/PROBLEMS:

Problem No. 20 – Week 7: Incorrect appeal. Ranking penalty applied for playing out of order. Appealed again by Oxton – Oxton claimed team on card written in the way it was played. WM appeared to have put in what was alleged to be a spurious appeal. Dealt with for 3rd time – re-applied original penalty. Need to discuss if apply something additional for spurious penalty. In appendix to Rules, would apply a double penalty for this. Proposed to do this unless anyone opposed. MW confirmed that clubs need to be clear on any appeal being raised must be investigated by the club first and ensure not spurious. Wastes time for the committee.

Joe Copeland apologised for the time taken in dealing with this – at time, not thought to be a spurious appeal. Joe was concerned in relation to the manner that he was approached about the issue. Joe confirmed he had written an error on the card in the ranking order. Accepts he could have asked the girls involved first. Apologised for the inconvenience.

Joe raised concern about the way the issue was dealt with, concerned MW was conflicted in this situation.

MW stated he was gathering evidence. Not going to vote on an issue at a later date. From MW's perspective, he was trying to find out what was happening. Accepted it may well have been a genuine mistake, invited him to go away and investigate it and come back to say what they found i.e. uphold the original account or advise of what happened.

MW just pleaded to clubs to ensure the appeals are well founded.

Agreed penalty will be doubled in this instance.

GD confirmed when a ranking error, GD goes through all the cards which takes a lot of time and extra work unnecessarily.

Problem 28 – Week 10: Neston 1 not played and lower teams did. Neston said this was because Neston 1 normally play on the grass. Penalty could be applied to all teams. Serious issue. A Neston member suggested they should get a 24 point penalty. Considered if Hooton should be penalised something as should know lower teams can't play if top team can't. Proposal was 24 points for the 1st fixture (half a full match as if not turned up). GD proposed a small penalty for Hooton. CH proposed a whole match penalty (48 points). If play match, leave as it is. Raised by meeting that if Neston won whole match on re-play would mean potentially no penalty. Meeting view was to not penalise Hooton as told at 5pm by Neston couldn't play and wouldn't know anyone else playing.

MP raised that all players should still turn up to try and avoid this.

MW raised if on grass and definitely can't play lower team as can't play all matches, clubs can let opposition know in advance.

Proposed penalise Neston 1, 48 points, and let score stand for rearranged fixture – agreed in this instance not to penalise lower teams or Hooton in this particular circumstance.

Meeting agreed unanimously.

SE suggested to put in the standard Rules. CH suggested noting this is for all teams at one venue that this will be a standard tariff. Agreed by meeting.

Problem 34 – Week 11 Mens: WM2 not shown. WM2 looked at wrong fixture list as left old file on the website. GD always leaves old files on the website as a record. New fixtures emailed to all contacts and on then website. It was week 11. CH raised that WM were very apologetic afterwards and good communication afterwards. CH agreed to play the fixture as felt fair to do that for all other teams in the division. MW raised he can see it was an easy mistake to make but it is an admin issue. All other clubs dealt with it after it was sent out by GD.

MW opened up to suggestions. GD suggested (in old score terms) 8-0 to Thorndale, standard penalty for not turning up. Had received an email from CH and JC. JC said not an appeal as such, apologised and suggested only one set of fixtures be kept on the website. GD raised that all fixtures are on the website. JC raised not all under 2016. Others suggested fixtures were clear on the website, but not on laminate given out at the start of the season as not updated. The meeting agreed the proposed penalty of GD.

Problem not listed, Mens: WM1 asked about rearranging a fixture from Sunday to following Monday. GD reiterated the Rule in relation to this i.e. match could be played earlier with agreement. Card accepted and noted the date was for the Sunday. Someone from Wallasey Manor told MW not played on the Sunday and was on the Monday, appears all accepted played on the Monday – captain felt though should put the Sunday date on. If rearranged fixture, put the actual date on the card. MW says he was certain they always intended to play on the Monday. Seemingly couldn't rearrange for an earlier date. GD told them it was contravening the Rules. SE raised the opposition should know not to play late too.

GD was told the reason was due to an open day. No suggestion anyone trying to get an unfair advantage. Could have brought forward but can't do later. Knowingly contravened the Rules. Treated it as a 0-0 as in the past, no further penalty. Proposed. Carried.

Problem 23, Week 8: At CM2 2016, Birkenhead 4 withdrew. Birkenhead 3 had submitted card and had won 16-2 against Birkenhead 4. MW queried whether rubbers played due to information received. Email from Birkenhead, not confirmed either way. MW read out the email received from Birkenhead. Lots of issues raised. Chaotic night. Apologised to WTL. MW said it is serious to submit a card knowingly false. Not done with malice but 2 teams in same division, admitted and apologised for the incorrect card. Birkenhead 3 are the issue as they picked up the points – both teams falsified card. Points expunged as Birkenhead 4 withdrew. MW raised had we not known given the discussion at CM2 about this, it could have been unknown and a problem to all in the Division. SE raised falsified card a big problem. In standard penalty we recorded it as -8-8 in 'old money' for the set put as played when it was not. GD proposes treat the same. (-24-24). Meeting raised think it is worse to falsify the card. GD suggested double the penalty. Proposed -48-48. Whole

card wiped and penalty of -48 applied to this season. TR thanked everyone for understanding the issues at Birkenhead.

3.1 Matters arising from review of Problems

None

4.0 Fixture Secretary's Report (Geoff Dewhurst)

- 4.1.1 Copy of this report is attached for reference. Important notes at the beginning from GD should be noted.
- 4.1.2 There has been an improvement in the number of problems. Clubs need to **know the rules.**
- 4.1.3 Some problems picked up in this report.
- 4.1.4 Congratulations to the winners.
- 4.1.5 Still working on E-scoring.
- 4.1.6 Play offs schedule re-done to accommodate some requests from the clubs.

5.0 Wirral Tankard/Plate

- 5.1 Two scores outstanding from last night. Heswall, Hooton, Thorndale, Hoylake – no-one let GD know. Winning captain to let GD know. Hooton won – not sent message to GD. Hoylake won 5-2 – Hoylake not advised GD either. Prenton v Hooton – Prenton home club in semi. Oxton v Birkenhead in Plate final. Hoylake v Neston – Neston home club. 18 September is finals day at Prenton – will have BBQ and real ales etc.

6.0 Winter League

- 6.1 WTL will now be running this. Mark and Norman Nelson have recently sent relevant information through re contacts from last season. Email to go out soon for entries. Fixtures to be completed by 3rd week in September - GD to send fixtures to clubs.

7.0 Play offs/Presentation Evening

- 7.1 Some re-scheduling due to some clashes. Further request again after the second schedule sent out. New schedule prepared again and sent out. Tried to accommodate all requests. Date set a year before for play offs. GD specifies schedule at the outset – if problems arise, GD may say not going to accommodate any requests. Upton has sorted a team for the scheduled time initially listed. Thorndale requested a change as player conflicted in times to allow a gap. GD re-listed the schedule and then Upton raised players sorted for a time originally now can't do times on the revised schedule. Thorndale say it is because of a player impossible to play in two matches at same time. MP said if Heswall agreed to play at 9am could resolve it. GD feels if any hassle will go back to sticking to original format and not accommodate requests in future. Accommodated the only two requests received. Thorndale issue is their player will play in consecutive matches. Could submit requests up until today. GD

believes we need to say next year we stick to the original schedule no matter what. Thorndale confirmed would stick to what was rearranged as final version and not ask for other changes now.

- 7.2 Presentation evening details have been emailed by MW to all club contacts. To reserve and pay for tickets by 21/8/16.

8.0 Any other business

- 8.1.1 GD will send out play off Rules.

- 8.1.2 Meeting closed 9.28pm.

Distribution

Committee via email

Clubs via email to nominated contacts and upload to website

L Wilson-Jarvis – WTL Secretary