

Wirral Tennis League

WTL Committee Meeting 1 (CM1)

Held at Oxton LTC at 7.30pm on Tuesday 31 July 2018

1. Present/Apologies

Margaret Dooley (Birkenhead), Lesley Cubbin (Thorndale), Chris Hopewell (committee), Matt Webb (Chair), Geoff Dewhurst (Fixture Secretary), Louise Wilson-Jarvis (Secretary), Julie Riseley (Heswall), Dan Edwards (Prenton), David Pomphrey (Prenton), Sue Edwards (Committee), Mark Powers (committee), Val McIndoe (committee), Caroline Child (Oxton), Richard Chiverrel (Birkenhead), Pam Kloenzman (Hoylake), Steve Ellis (Pinewood), Teresa Hodges (Oxton), Barbara Bloor (Heswall and Cheshire LTA), Ann Holian (Alderley).

Apologies:

Sue Davies (Heswall)

2. Matters Arising

AGM 2017 and WTL CM2 2017 minutes are on the website

Some matters arising for Tankard but see later

Previous minutes proposed and seconded

3. Final Tables / Fixture Secretary's Report (Geoff Dewhurst)

3.1. Problems / appeals

Last match of Season Pinewood 3 v Neston 6 – Pensby courts out of use – Pinewood asked GD what to do – said courts available at Upton, Birkenhead etc or can rearrange but let GD know. GD not notified or given 3 dates for a rearranged date – teams just agreed to play the following Tuesday. As no-one notified GD – potentially both teams could be penalised. Following week - Neston could not raise a team. Not followed the correct procedure. No communication until GD made it nil. Pinewood communicated to Neston but not GD. No card filled in. Suggestion of CH proposed - Point deduction for both teams for card error. Neston penalised for not raising team. Carried both aspects unanimously.

3.2. Fixture Secretary report:

3.2.1. See report on website. Discussed winter league. Number of constraints on there – deadline of 14 August to let Geoff know of any changes.

3.2.2. Number of matches conceded very disappointing, whether part or whole of the match.

3.2.3. Complaint about Wallasey Manor B v Bertram from P Sunlight – played an A team top player – CH read email and affected Thorndale but not in the Rules that could not do that. GD confirmed can apply any penalty see fit even if not a specific Rules breach. MP said the first team didn't have a match for about 3 weeks – GD queried if acceptable – difficulty is nothing to say one way or another in Rules. Issue of gentleman's agreement being applied. MW – bit of a legacy issue – some people quoting old Rules which had not been applied properly historically – thinks it is a moral issue here. Potentially questionable but remains possibility their only player available and no rule to cater for it. Tried to avoid having as many rules for the Men's league. If abused, will need to look at tightening it up. We have to ignore where teams are in the league etc – judge on the facts of the matter. PK – dropped the rule re playing up and below. Discussion re why this happened. SE – suggest

put out reminder of the gentleman's agreement re how to play in the men's league and then consider tightening the Rules regarding this issue if see something arising such as that from port sunlight's complaint. Meeting felt complaint reasonable but not appropriate to retrospectively punish on this occasion even though statistics show Richard Lewis was Wallasey Manor A top player winning 17 of 21 rubbers. Reiterate the moral position. Agreed acknowledge the complaint – not taking retrospective punishment on this occasion but reiterate gentleman's agreement moving forward – expect to adhere to that. If not, will look at imposing rules in future.

- 3.2.4. GD proposing for winter if concede 3 matches in season then teams record is expunged – need to implement now as winter league starts before AGM. Meeting agreed. Also confirm the gentleman's agreement for Winter league.
- 3.2.5. Player can only play for one club in a season (winter or summer can change who play for) and must be registered.
- 3.2.6. Top player for the season – mention for the top players of the season.
- 3.2.7. Summer league - New results system – record number of teams entered. First Tuesday caused ridiculous amount of problems due to weather and clubs not applying Rules – not applied penalties. Much improved after that. Not found any ranking problems this year. Results being entered quickly. Disappointing number of walkovers. 43 matches caused penalties. 2 teams' records expunged for not fulfilling fixtures. Should only enter a team if have confidence can fulfil fixtures. Not issued penalties yet for BTM unregistered players – will be implemented next year.
- 3.2.8. BTM numbers before player plays. Number of them that haven't been entered. MW suggested for Winter 2018-2019 not mandatory but for summer 2018 and winter 2019-2020 will be required or will be considered unregistered. MW explained only one of two leagues in country that is running the league ourselves independent of LTA – all others run by LTA. BTM - Way of tracking number of people in our leagues and where funding ultimately comes from. Better chance of having the benefits in a club to have members registered. Tightens the league up slightly – registration should prevent non-bona fide members from registering as have to link to a club. To implement for start of next summer as penalties will be implemented thereafter for an unregistered player.
- 3.2.9. Final positions discussed of the league.

4. Wirral Tankard & Plate

10.1. Dates for rounds: 1,2,3: Tuesdays 7 / 14 / 21 August

Draw done – week one: Alderley v W Manor, Pinewood v Hoylake, Oxton v Neston, Preston v Upton, North Cheshire v Thorndale, Port Sunlight v Hooton, Heswall Bye (play winner of Alderley / W Manor) and Birkenhead have a Bye (play winner of P.Sunlight/Hooton).

Home teams to get in touch asap for fixtures. Minimum of 5 days notice. Tankard rules on website – draw to be circulated on Wednesday 1 August.

If bad weather – agree match played before the following Tuesday. Need to exchange names on the eve of teams playing (even if postponed – ok to play someone else in rearranged fixture, just to check for eligibility, can play on different nights for different rubbers as long as all played) – we have a rule of playing in 4 matches in the summer (mixed, mens or ladies) to be eligible to play in Tankard. Can check it in the new system. Play it in any way you want to – exchange names to prevent changes once see who playing.

10.2. Dates for finals: Sunday 23 September 2018 (due to Monkhouse shield). Plate at 10am. Tankard 2pm. 3 rubbers on to start then 4 rubbers so there are no dead rubbers when players start. (6 courts).

10.3. Venue for finals: Birkenhead LTC – refreshments available all day. League to pay for tea, coffee, biscuits.

10.4. Draw (all previous entries + North Cheshire)

5. Playoffs/Presentation Evening

5.1. Saturday 8 September at Wallasey Manor – 6 courts

5.2. Order of play – GD formulated with the 6 courts issue. Have to have player available at times published. GD will publish/circulate timings separately. Hoylake 1 not playing Hoylake 2 mens' therefore no clashes. 2nd ladies on then 2nd men then 1st ladies then 1st men. Max of 3 sessions for a match. 2 sessions for 1st division. Players names must be shared 15 mins before start time. Captain there to fill in team before first rubber on and once exchanged team cannot change it.

5.3. Presentation night tickets – keeping as £5 per head – balance subsidised by the league. Tickets allocated by email – will be a date to have paid for tickets and then release any spare tickets by a date. Think approx. 100 person capacity.

6. Winter League 2018-2019

6.1. Review of 2017-2018 season - new results system worked well on the whole

6.2. Entries (applications from Helsby C & Bohemians (Liverpool) – Main league – Prenton looking to enter another ladies team too. GD assuming same teams unless told different. CH suggested Bohemians have a friendly with Prenton to test them out – if another team willing to have team move – could put in higher division if recommended by them. Notify by 14 Aug for adding/withdrawing team – or like team to move division.

6.3. Structure (as 2017-2018 with 2 up 2 down unless notified by 14 Aug by email)

6.4. Fixture dates 24 Sep- 15 Apr (league closes 30 Apr) – first fixture can be rearranged if clashes with Plate/Tankard.

6.5. Fixtures Provisional - to be issued 28 Aug (become final after 31 August)

6.6. Results system – MW received a request for stats in league to see if have overall percentage (as some straddle divisions) and walk over should be classed as 2-0.

6.7. Issue of some teams having half a team – morally have been phoning up to say if only 2 players – other pair to play later. Some clubs suggesting if not got a full team, should concede whole match. Equivalent of 3 matches conceded and you're out considered. Also penalties as in summer league. Discussion of potential financial penalties. Meeting voted to give penalties as in summer for unfulfilled fixtures.

6.8. MP suggested start the week on a Monday for Winter league and would allow easier pick of players. Agreed and adjusted fixture dates above. Reason: most 1st division teams don't play Sunday so if Monday first day of week it will reduce risk of complicated selection/unavailability.

6.9. BTM numbers – not mandatory for winter but encouraged as will be mandatory in summer and will be mandatory the following winter.

7. Treasurer's report (Matt Webb)

7.1. Summer League – Subscriptions being kept the same - £50 for 1st team then £20 per additional team

Approx £4731 in the accounts at 31 July. Taking account of projected income and expenditure approx. £3k in the bank. Some one-off expenditure for trophies. Consider in future how use the money as builds up. Lots of suggestions made – will discuss further at a future date. Email Matt with any ideas.

7.2. Wirral Tankard – subscription £10 per team

7.3. Winter League – subscription - £12 per team

8. Any other business

Need to clear up in the Rules the fact if people injured, teams don't move up players – only if they don't turn up.

Need to think about how deal for e-results

All present want the laminated fixtures produced for the wall in clubs

Cards – want GD to print them – paper version. Agreed will still print them

Hooton emailed re tennis teas - people not staying - for AGM.

MP – Mens' league in summer – picked up a 1st team conceded and 2nd team played (lost 24-0) – both played on a Sunday. Set out 3 things in past year – against the spirit of the league.

RC raised about tougher stance on things – says play in order of strength – league can penalise for how they play it

Constraints re what we have – W Manor requested main A and B not play on same day and not ladies A and B on same day. Asked meeting what people think about that? Meeting agreed to take it out of constraints, not appropriate.

Prenton changed their constraints - can have 3 teams at home.

CC mentioned suggested clubs should send a rep to each committee meeting. Issue of some not attending and not fighting their case or explaining themselves. Will bring up at AGM. Usually likely only one CM1 and one AGM now.

Julie Riseley – thanked committee for all hard work, echoed by the meeting.

Need to agree a date for AGM - Thursday 22 Nov TBC

Meeting closed 9.45pm

Distribution

Committee via email

Clubs via email to nominated contacts and upload to website

L Wilson-Jarvis – WTL Secretary