

Portsmouth & IOW District LTA

Annual General Meeting

Date: Thursday 10th March 2016

Venue: Avenue Lawn Tennis Club

Present

Jim Skinner (Chairman)
Michael Isaacs (District League Secretary)
Paula Fuge (Ladies Winter League Secretary & PTA)
Lois Nash (Committee Secretary & JEM Hamble)
Alan Best (Treasurer & Rowlands Castle)
Karen Downie (Committee & Warsash)
Carrie Bateman (Committee & Ryde Lawn)

Rob Mort & Sara Robson (Avenue)
Bob Barrable (Canoe Lake)
Mel Davis & Elaine Philip (Carlton)
Sue Foote (Chichester)
James Craven (Denmead)
Luke McEwen & Tom Craddock (Fishbourne)
Florence Gimonet (JEM Hamble)
Mandy Reid & Guy Kidd (Lee)
Debbie Berry & Jon Hurst (PTA)
Alex Parent (Priory)
Anne Tapley, David Fothergill & Jamie Fothergill (Ryde Lawn)
Gwen Isaacs & Cheryl Goater (Sarisbury Green)
Linda Medlow & Caroline Macdowell (Seacourt)
Dawn Dewilde & Tim Clark (Southsea)
Maureen Parker (Stubbington),
Sue Kitt (Warsash)

Meeting commenced at 7.15pm

Apologies for Absence

Trish Smart (Alverstoke), Tricia Odd (Compton), Simon Baughan & Kirsty Roberts (Ryde Mead), Linda Jones & Michelle Parker (Ventnor), Dereck Pickering (Wellow), Robert Goulson & Maggie Allen (Wickham)

Minutes of 2015 AGM

The minutes of the 2015 AGM were agreed as a true and accurate recording of the meeting.

Matters Arising

Covered in Agenda

Chairman's Report

Jim thanked all those who had attended.

Thanks were given to Alan Best for his continued work with the Portsmouth News and the tremendous coverage over the last 12 months.

Thanks were also given to Michael Isaacs for his work as League Secretary. Since Michael took over the League it now consists of a huge number of teams with new clubs joining

every year. Michael was also instrumental in negotiating the Wightlink discount for our teams which has been a real bonus for the teams on the Isle of Wight and those travelling there for matches.

Jim announced his retirement as Chairman after 14 years, the role now being open to any volunteer, none of which were forthcoming on the night.

Treasurer's Report

Alan handed out copies of his financial report. There was an increase in revenue from £597 to £820 which was mainly due to an increase in fees per team of £1. It was reported that the money spent on the website last year was money well spent due to the huge amount of time saved in inputting the results and the figures should be moving back into profit next year with the finances looking healthy overall.

League Secretary's Report

Winter Season 2015/16

Michael informed the committee that the current season had been wet and windy with many storms blighting a few of the weekend's play. There are quite a few matches still to be played but hopefully they will all be completed before the end of the season.

Congratulations were given to Ventnor who won Ladies Division 1 and Warsash who retained their title by winning the Men's Division 1 both representing the P&D LTA in the 2016 Solent Cup

Seacourt Division 1 team decided to withdraw due to difficulties fielding a regular team. Michael thanked Paula Fuge for her organising of the Ladies League and Alan Best for administering the Master's League.

Summer Season 2016

Michael announced that when he took over as secretary in 2010 there were 50 teams in the whole league and his aim was to get 100 teams. The winter season 2015/16 saw 99 teams entered however the summer entry is now 105 teams. This results in just shy of 500 matches scheduled for the summer season and which is considerably a lot more than the Southampton League. New teams to the League are Denmead, Fishbourne and Canoe Lake.

The Master's League enters its 3rd season and welcomes new teams from Lee, Wellow, Compton and Virgin Active.

Michael asked that captains returned their scorecards as soon as possible, an emailed or text photo of the scorecard is acceptable. He also asked that communication is made quicker with regards rearranging of a postponed match.

He also asked captains to encourage their players to embrace matches on the IOW and use the Wightlink discount.

The catering cup will be awarded again this summer but to be treated as a bit of fun and not taken too seriously. The Colin Manvell Sportsmanship Trophy will also be awarded using the same format as last year. There was a 70% return last year and the aim was to improve on that this year.

Website

Michael said the purchasing and updating of the software package is incredibly significant. It means inputting match results are reduced from up to 3 hours to just

minutes. It also means should Michael not be able to, the results can be inputted by others. Alan Best is totally aware of the new system and administrates the Masters League accordingly.

He said the website continues to be a useful tool to all club administrators and a good advert for the league.

Presentation Evening

Michael expressed his thanks to Lee for hosting the 4th annual presentation evening last October. It was well attended with over 60 players and officials and a great get together. Lee will be hosting again this year on Thursday 13th October.

Wightlink

Michael reminded everyone about the discount our players can receive on the Wightlink crossings and encouraged everyone to use it.

The Solent Cup

The 4th Solent Cup will take place on Saturday 16th April 11am at Winchester Tennis Club. Last year both the Ladies and Men's Cups were won by Winchester. This year the Ladies Cup will be between Ventnor and Winchester. The Men's Cup has already been won by Warsash as the team has won both leagues. How this will be played out on the day is still to be discussed but Warsash will consider their win on behalf of the Portsmouth & District LTA.

Michael expressed his thanks to the committee for their support and noted that Lois has agreed to take over the role from Carrie as Committee Secretary. He also expressed his gratitude for everyone's continued support, effort and involvement of the Portsmouth & District LTA.

Proposed Rule Changes

(Printed sheet handed around)

1.Change to rule 6(c)

The proposal was to change from:

Two points will be awarded for a win and one for a drawn match.

Change to:

Three points will be awarded to a team winning a match on rubbers (e.g. 4-0 or 3-1); two points will be awarded to a team winning a match on sets or games after a 2-2 scoreline in rubbers; one point will be awarded to a team losing a match on sets or games after a 2-2 scoreline in rubbers; one and a half points will be awarded to both teams in the event of a tied match (e.g. rubbers, sets and games equal)

No issues were raised and everyone voted for the change.

Rule changed.

2.Change to rule 9(b)(i)

The proposal was to change the time a home team must contact the away team when a fixture has not been played due to bad weather from 3 weeks to 1 week. There was discussion about the one week change being too short a time frame in case people are away on holiday or can not make contact with the opposing team within that time.

Michael highlighted that it meant it was one week to make contact with the opposing team and not one week to have the date of the postponed match confirmed. Michael also said the rule change was intended to be more of an encouragement to make timely

contact and rearrange the match than a strict rule. The aim of the change would be to avoid the last minute, end of season panic to fit the match in.

Votes to change from 3 weeks to 1 week: Yes 10, No 3, Abstention 1.

Rule changed.

3.Change to rule 9(b)(ii) The proposal was to change the time frame for contact from three weeks to one week if a match does not go ahead due to a team not appearing other than for bad weather and it has been agreed with the League Secretary to re-arrange the match.

This was voted on as an addition to the previous vote and all were in agreement.

Rule changed.

4.Change to rule 9(d)

The proposal was to change the wording from:

If a fixture is NOT played (other than for bad weather) the team not appearing at the venue must award a walkover to their opponents.....and on

Change to:

If a fixture is NOT played (other than for bad weather) the team responsible for the fixture not being played (eg.by not being able to field a team or the home side not providing courts available for the match or any other reason that could have been avoided) must award a walkover to their opponents.....and on

Change of rule was necessary to cover all possible events for the home and away teams. No discussion was needed and everyone voted for the change.

Rule changed.

5.Change to rule 11(a)

It was proposed to change the wording to widen the definition of eligible players.

Original wording:

All players must be enrolled members of the competing club affiliated to the Portsmouth & District LTA.

Change to:

All players must be enrolled members of the competing club, or otherwise affiliated to the club where no formal or direct membership scheme exists. The club must be affiliated to the Portsmouth & District LTA.

No discussion was needed and everyone voted for the change.

Rule changed.

6.Change to rule 11(b)

The proposal was to change the wording from:

In any one season, any player who has played more than once for the same team may not play for a "lower" team from the same club.

A "lower" team being defined as follows:-

A team from the same club that is competing in a lower division OR if two teams from the same club are in the same division, the team with the lower title status.

Change to:

In any one season, any player who has played more than once for the same team or played more than once for any "higher" teams may not play for a "lower" team from the same club.

A "higher" team being defined as follows:-

A team from the same club that is competing in a higher division OR if two teams from the same club are in the same division, the team with the higher title status

A "lower" team being defined as follows:-

A team from the same club that is competing in a lower division OR if two teams from the same club are in the same division, the team with the lower title status

It has been necessary to change the rule for clubs with more than 2 teams in the same league and to highlight the rules for players playing up and down. It is intended to stop the loophole of players who have played for any higher teams more than once from playing down.

There was much discussion about different scenarios and how to word the change to cover all outcomes.

It was decided and voted on unanimously to agree in principle to the change but to alter the wording at a later date.

Rule changed.

7. Change to Masters League

Currently the age groups are Ladies 45 and Men 50

Proposal was to change the Ladies age group to 50

Vote: Unanimously No

Rule remains unchanged

Election of Officers

Chairman retiring, replacement to be recruited.

All other officers are willing to stand.

Any Other Business

Michael thanked Jim on behalf of the committee and all the clubs in the League for all his hard work and commitment over the last 14 years. He presented Jim with an engraved plaque and a voucher for him and his wife to enjoy.

Michael thanked Avenue Tennis Club for hosting the AGM and fixtures meeting for another year.

Meeting ended at 8.45pm