

Aldershot & District Lawn Tennis Association

Affiliated to Hants & Isle Of Wight LTA

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 9th FEBRUARY, 2017, at AVONDALE LAWN TENNIS CLUB

The Chairman, Keith Morris, opened the meeting.

Present: 26 people attended, representing 14 clubs.

1. Apologies

Peter Hill, Carole Lee and Sarah Hamilton.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 10th February, 2016, have been circulated. They were accepted.

3. Matters Arising

None.

4. Chairman's Report

Happy New Year to all clubs.

The Aldershot and District League is still doing very well with 24 clubs, Summer and Winter leagues totalling 235 senior teams and 19 junior teams, about 900 matches per season. We remain one of the largest local leagues in the Country. The junior teams have reverted back to four players per team as the two players per team was not successful.

We had 6 committee meetings in the year with excellent attendance. This was in addition to the 2 promotion and relegation meetings that are attended by league secretaries and Laura Williams.

The Aldershot and District League has an excellent committee. My thanks go out to Alison Fortune who is the secretary, Andrew Littlecott, treasurer, Chris Iles, mens results secretary, Carole Lee, ladies results secretary, Sam Williamson, mixed results secretary, Brian Greig, junior results secretary and Derek Penn. My thanks also go to Laura Williams for the work she does regarding promotion and relegation at the beginning of each season, as well as the work she and Chris Iles do on the online results system.

Once again, there is still confusion with some team captains and members being unaware of some of the rules for matches. The rules should be displayed in your clubhouse or if you haven't got a clubhouse, make sure the team captains have them. It would be helpful if when there was a new match secretary or new team captain, they were given some help by the previous match secretary or team captain on what their new role entails, the online system and preparation for the fixtures evenings.

One rule that I would like to draw your attention to is Rule G10. **This Rule states that matches shall not be postponed except for bad weather prevailing at the home venue at the actual time laid down for starting, as per the online system.** If it is raining, please be optimistic. As I have said numerous times before at Fixture Evenings and AGMs, do not leave messages on e-mail or voicemail. Perhaps we can go back to my era and actually speak to someone. Also, matches must not be rearranged. Any appeal for postponement must be made to League Secretaries and shall only be granted in exceptional circumstances. Could all match secretaries please note that match dates must be entered within 8 days after the dummy date at the beginning of each season or penalty points will apply.

Unfortunately, there was no senior tournament held in 2016 but we are hoping that there will be one in 2017. If anyone in your club would be willing to assist in the organisation, we would be very grateful. Please contact me if you are interested.

A small minority of teams do not supply light refreshments (coffee, tea, squash, biscuits). This should be standard practice and I would appreciate it if all teams did it.

Thanks to Avondale Tennis Club for hosting the AGM and twice yearly fixture evenings.

Thanks to all of you and the other volunteers in your clubs who do so much.

I wish you all success in 2017.

With regard to junior tennis Keith stated that clubs in Surrey were experiencing difficulties raising teams.

5. **Treasurer's Report**

Andrew presented the Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 2016. The accounts are stable and there are no problems There were no queries from the floor.

Keith thanked Peter Hill for auditing the accounts.

6. **Election of the committee**

Keith asked if there were any volunteers to join the committee. There were none. Keith reported that the committee were happy to continue.

Keith Morris	Chairman
Andrew Littlecott	Treasurer
Alison Fortune	Secretary
Chris Iles	Mens League Secretary
Carole Lee	Ladies League Secretary
Sam Williamson	Mixed League Secretary
Brian Greig	Junior League Secretary
Laura Williams	Online lead
Derek Penn	

Proposed: Peter Millard (Normandy)

Seconded: Paul Adlam (Brightwells)

The proposal to elect the committee, on bloc, was carried unanimously.

7. **Election of Auditor**

Peter Hill is prepared to continue as Auditor.

Proposed: Peter Millard (Normandy)

Seconded: Paul Adlam (Brightwells)

Carried unanimously.

8. **Proposals**

Senior rule W12:

In the case of a match having to be abandoned after play has commenced, the match shall be deemed to have been completed if 3 or more rubbers have been completed. The points for the incomplete rubber shall be shared as follows:

- i) If no sets are completed, each pair shall receive 2 points
- ii) If only 1 set is completed, the winners of that set will receive 2 points and the second set will be shared 1 point each
- iii) If 2 sets are completed but the championship tie-break is not completed (not applicable for the mixed league), the 1st set winners will receive 2 points, the 2nd set winners will receive 2 points and the 3rd set will be shared 1 point each

Any games played in the incomplete rubber shall be counted should a count back be required at the end of the season.

Junior rule 13L and 14L:

In the case of a match having to be abandoned after play has commenced, the match shall be deemed to have been completed if 3 or more rubbers have been completed. The points for the incomplete rubber shall be shared as follows:

- i) If no sets are completed, each pair will receive 0.5 points
- ii) If only 1 set is completed, the winners of that set will receive 0.5 points and the 2nd set will be shared 0.25 points each

Any games played in the incomplete rubber shall be counted should a count back be required at the end of the season.

Keith outlined the rule change and the reason for the change (If a match has to be abandoned a pair is rewarded for winning a complete set, the points for incomplete sets are halved).

Proposed: the committee

Seconded: Nigel Hill

Passed unanimously.

Rule G7c

G7c. If nominations have not been received in time the first 4 players (winter) or 6 players (summer) entered for the result of the first fixture online will be deemed to be the nominated team.

This was debated, the general view from the floor was that the original rule (see below) could be replaced rather than amended.

G7a Clubs are required to nominate players for all their respective teams (except the lowest).

G7b All such nominations shall be made to a group Results Secretary not later than three days prior to the opening of the Summer and Winter League seasons.

G7c Failure to do so may, at the discretion of the Committee, result in the deduction of up to eighteen match points (Summer) or sixteen match points (Winter).

Keith felt that there could be a problem with the phrase "in time". After more debate an amendment was made to the wording of the proposal.

G7c. If nominations have not been received **before the first match starts** the first 4 players (winter) or 6 players (summer) entered for the result of the first fixture online will be deemed to be the nominated team.

Proposed: Peter Millard

Seconded: Ann Myers

Passed unanimously.

9. Discussion topic: number of teams per summer division

Clubs were asked for their opinions on the number of teams in a division, if there are 8 teams in a division there is no spare or free week which can make it much more difficult to get all the matches played. The number of teams in a division depends on the number of teams that enter each season, if teams withdraw the nature of the division changes which has knock on effects for the next season with promotions and relegation. A reorganisation of the divisions might make clubs feel they had been unfairly demoted (or promoted)

The general view from the floor was that divisions of 8 are too large, 7 as a maximum is probably ok. There was general agreement for restructuring of the leagues for this summer which would be dependent, partly, on the number of teams entered.

10. AOB

Headley played a match at Aldershot Methodists and were disappointed when the floodlights went out at 9pm. They felt the match should have started earlier. It was noted that matches do have earlier start times but this requires everyone to arrive at the earlier time and to get going with warm ups and matches. Aldershot Methodists had difficulty in getting permission for the floodlights hence the 9pm curfew. Normandy commented that they were also originally limited to 9pm but once the lights were in and that they had

demonstrated that the courts were not used every night they appealed and were given a 10pm deadline. A very similar thing happened at Shalford. The committee are happy to write a letter of support for Aldershot Methodists should they wish to appeal to use their floodlights after 9pm.

Chris noted that if you reduce the number of teams per league there could be more flexibility to change or amend the format of the summer tennis.

Cathy from Avondale commented that if a club sends one pair in the winter they can still get a draw and wondered if they should get a penalty point so a draw is not possible. The fact that a club can get a draw with one pair is not fair to their opposition with a full team (who have to wait around).

This was noted, however, the aim of the league to get people playing tennis which this would possibly discourage. Any club is free to propose this at a future AGM if they so wish.

There was a query from the floor regarding junior tennis and Brian summarised the general issues around raising junior teams (availability, commitment, parental support, court time etc)

Keith thanked Avondale again for hosting the AGM.