

Aldershot & District Lawn Tennis Association

Affiliated to Hants & Isle Of Wight LTA

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 7th FEBRUARY, 2018, at AVONDALE LAWN TENNIS CLUB

The Chairman, Keith Morris, opened the meeting.

Present: 30 people attended, representing 15 clubs.

1. Apologies

Laura Williams and Derek Penn.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 9th February, 2017, 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 10 junior teams, about 900 matches per season. We remain one of the largest local leagues in the Country.

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, men's results secretary, Carole Lee, ladies results secretary, Sam Williamson, mixed results secretary, Brian Greig, junior results secretary and Derek Penn, pennants organiser. 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.

Once again, there is one rule that I would like to draw your attention to - 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 A.G.Ms, 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, for another year, there was no senior tournament held 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 a standard practice and I would appreciate it if all teams did it.

Thanks to Avondale Tennis Club for hosting the A.G.M and twice yearly fixture evenings.

Thanks to all of you and the other volunteers in your clubs who do so much. For the first time in a number of years all the entries for this summer's leagues were received on time, well done.

I wish you all success in 2018.

5. **Treasurer's Report**

Andrew presented the Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 2017. The accounts are stable and there are no problems There were no queries from the floor.

Proposed: Alex Bliss (Ash)
Seconded: Carole Lee (Onslow Village)
The accounts were approved.

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 apart from Derek.

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

Proposed: Mike Mullins(Elstead)
Seconded: Peter Hill (Frimley)
The proposal to elect the committee, on bloc, was carried unanimously.

7. **Election of Auditor**

Peter Hill is prepared to continue as Auditor.

Proposed: Carole Lee (Onslow Village)
Seconded: Sam Williamson (Avondale)

Carried unanimously.

8. **Proposals**

Proposal 1:

Rule S9. Match points shall be awarded on the basis of 2 points to each team for each set won; e.g. winners get 18 points for a 9 sets to 0 win, losers get 0 points; winners get 12 points for a 6 sets to 3 win, losers get 6 points, etc. In the event of a team giving a walkover, the opposition is awarded 18 points and the offending team 0 points. If count back is required at the end of the season, then Rule S14 will apply for games.

Rule W10. Match points shall be awarded on the basis of 2 points for each set won. In the event of a team giving a walkover, the opposition is awarded 16 points and the offending team 0 points. If count back is required at the end of the season, then Rule W15 will apply for games.

Proposer: Linda Kent, Aldershot Methodists
Seconder: Jess Lamport, Aldershot Methodists

Proposal 2:

Rules S9 and W10 should be amended so that the offending team is awarded 4 penalty points.

Proposer: The committee

Linda Kent spoke regarding the proposal, a team had given a walkover due to a mistake (communication errors) and were horrified by the penalty which meant they were playing catch-up for the rest of the season and were left demoralised.

The proposal was then discussed.

A Frimley representative was in favour of a 4 point penalty, Ash felt 8 points was too harsh. Worplesdon commented that for a small club it could have a big effect.

The penalty was introduced in 2008 after a team gave a walkover causing a third team to be demoted instead of the team given the walkover (& points).

Wrecclesham were in favour of a harsh penalty. Frimley said it could act as an incentive to move players up and give them experience rather than not play a match, however it could demoralise a weaker player if they are playing against very strong players. Farnborough were in favour of a 4 point penalty (prop 2).

The proposals were voted on:

Proposal 1: For: 7, Against: 16, Abs: 7 NOT CARRIED

Proposal 2: For:18, Against: 3, Abs: 9 CARRIED

From this summer the rules will be amended and a 4 point penalty will be given to the team giving a walkover. The rules will be updated and available on the website as soon as possible.

9. ADLTA League History (Brian Greig)

The ADLTA was formed in 1948 so 2018 marks the platinum or 70th anniversary of the league. John Warburton started to put all the past league results together before he died and I have completed the task and analysed the results. Chris has now put all the results found onto the ADLTA website.

The league started with ladies, mens and mixed leagues in the summer only. The winter leagues started later in 1971/72 for the ladies and mens, a winter mixed league started in 2002/03.

Over the past 70 years there have been 86 clubs or teams which have played for at least one season in the league. In the earlier days there were several teams from various army units in addition to teams from pubs, local businesses, the civil service, NALGO, NAFFI and others.

In 1982 there were 26 clubs in the league and interestingly there are 26 clubs playing now, but only 11 of the 1982 members remain. Fifteen clubs have ceased taking part for one reason or another to have been replaced by 15 different teams.

All the results back to 1948 have been collated and using a scoring system of awarding points from 6 for winning division 1 (or premier) down to 1 point for division 6 and combining the summer and winter results we can see which clubs have been the most successful in the long history of the ADLTA in terms of league results.

Ladies: 1st Bourne, 2nd Avondale, 3rd Brightwell

Mens: 1st Avondale, 2nd Bourne, 3rd Brightwell

Mixed: 1st Brightwell, 2nd Avondale, 3rd Bourne

Combined: 1st Avondale, 2nd Bourne, 3rd Brightwell

Brian asked a quiz question, which current club was the first to have a division winner since 1948? (mens or ladies)

10. Discussion topics

Fixture evening:

Attendance at the last 2 meetings has been very low (8 and 10 respectively). If these evenings are not of benefit should we continue to hold them?

The consensus was that most fixtures are organised via email although the fixtures evening was enjoyed by some and seen as a way to keep in contact with others, most were happy to discontinue them.

Ineligible players for competitive matches/ladies or men:

Brian: In the winter when a team has 1 pair, 1 pair has to wait around, so to avoid pairs this could a lady or man play instead. The result would not count but more tennis would be played.

This was favourably received, Avondale commented that an opposition team had had a player drop out and that they had lent them a player so the game could be played, Frimley were happy with this so a good game could be had by all. Ladies playing as men and men playing as ladies was generally positively viewed as long as they fitted into the standard of the teams, i.e. they were not vastly stronger or weaker than the rest of the team.

The committee will issue guidance for next winter so this can be trialled. There will be no specific rule changes.

11, AOB

Tim Wakefield (Frimley) asked why teams had to be submitted so early for the summer leagues. Keith offered to show Tim the timeline for what needs to be done after the meeting. Carole Lee commented that the fixtures for the Chaucer summer league had already been organised. Peter Hill commented that the winter leagues were easier because people were generally already playing tennis in the summer and that club years tended to run from April to April so membership was less clear in January/February.

Nobody got the correct answer to Brian's quiz question, the answer was Badshot Lea, their ladies were winners of division 2.

Keith thanked Avondale again for hosting the AGM and reminded clubs to collect their winners pennants.