

Aldershot & District Lawn Tennis Association

Affiliated to Hants & Isle Of Wight LTA

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 10th FEBRUARY, 2016, at AVONDALE LAWN TENNIS CLUB

The Chairman, Keith Morris, opened the meeting.

Present: 36 people attended, representing 18 clubs.

1. Apologies

Laura Williams.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 11th February, 2015, have been circulated. They were accepted.

3. Matters Arising

Pennants for the winning teams are laid out on the table at the back of the room ready for collection along with the cups for the winning teams of the top three divisions (mens, ladies & mixed for both summer and winter seasons).

4. Chairman's Report

Happy New Year to all clubs.

The Aldershot and District League is still doing very well with 26 clubs, Summer and Winter leagues totalling 226 senior teams and 24 junior teams, about 900 matches per season. We remain one of the largest local leagues in the Country. The junior teams were reduced from four players to two players and this has not been as successful as we had hoped.

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, 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.

We were very sorry to hear that John Warburton sadly passed away in May. He had been treasurer for over twenty years and was a very valued member of the committee, even though he no longer played tennis. We managed to find another treasurer fairly quickly and I would like to thank Andrew Littlecott for stepping into the treasurer role.

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. If a club changes the password for the online system, please ensure that you notify all team captains and the match secretary within your club, as well as Chris Iles.

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.

The senior tournament was held in 2015 by Claire Beer and Emily Boniface at Bourne Tennis Club and I would like to thank them very much for their efforts. Unfortunately, Bourne Tennis Club are unable to host it in 2016 and we would welcome any offers from another club.

Following on from last year's A.G.M, we are now distributing league winners pennants instead of the shields which the clubs then keep. In addition, the mens, ladies and mixed winners of the top divisions in both Winter and Summer leagues will receive an engraved cup which they keep for one year.

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. My congratulations also go to them for winning the LTA Club of the Year Award for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight in 2015.

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

Alex Bliss (Ash) was congratulated on her success winning 3 local awards for her voluntary tennis work.

I wish you all success in 2016.

5. **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer presented the Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 2015. There were no queries.

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: Sarah Hamilton (Worplesdon)

Seconded: Margaret Robinson (Camberley)

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

7. **Election of Auditor**

Peter Hill is prepared to continue as Auditor.

Proposed: Sarah Hamilton (Worplesdon)

Seconded: Margaret Robinson (Camberley)

Carried unanimously.

8. **Proposal**

The junior match format should return to 4 players per team.

Any changes would be implemented summer 2016 (i.e. this summer)

Proposed by Alicia Hellier (Brightwells)

Alicia made the following points in favour of the proposal:

The leagues have been of a good standard and encourage team spirit. They provide good experience for juniors and helps them move through to the adult leagues which play doubles matches. The same court time and organisation is required regardless of team size and if one team member can't play the option of one pair remains so the whole match is not lost. The more playing the better.

Comments from the floor:

If this gets more kids playing then surely this is the obvious thing to do.

Bourne lamented the apathy of their juniors and the small numbers of opposition teams that meant it was hard to justify court time for these junior matches.

As Wrecclisham had supported the 2 per team format at the last AGM but then had been unable to enter any teams Brian Greig asked them if they had any comments. Unfortunately they had stood their teams down as they thought the leagues would not go ahead and the players had organised other things instead so couldn't then play. They do not have enough players for teams of 4. The 1 pair option was confirmed and girls can play in a boys team if there is no girls or mixed team available for them to play in.

Avondale commented that the tighter ages for the leagues could prove difficult.

There was some informal discussion between clubs to see who would enter if the proposal was successful. As ever a lack of commitment is a problem. Avondale stated they were in favour of 4 per team.

Derek Penn asked if it was detrimental to have three age groups, Brian will canvass clubs.

Votes for: 20

Votes against: 0

Abstentions: 16

Proposal passed and will become effective this summer (2016).

Alison will email junior organisers, clubs will have until cop on 26th February to enter their junior teams. The existing age groups will remain as there was no proposal to amend them.

10. AOB

Keith thanked Avondale again for hosting the AGM.

Sarah Hamilton offered a vote of thanks to the committee.