

Aldershot & District Lawn Tennis Association

Affiliated to Hants & Isle Of Wight LTA

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2nd November 2022, at AVONDALE LAWN TENNIS CLUB

The Chairman, Keith Morris, opened the meeting.

Present: 27 people attended, representing 15 clubs.

1. Apologies

Claire Murton (Farnborough), Laura Williams (Camberley) and Matt Marlow.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 7th November 2021, have been circulated. They were accepted unanimously.

3. Matters Arising

None.

4. Chairman's Report

Keith read out his report.

The Aldershot and District League is still doing very well with 26 clubs, Summer and Winter leagues totalling 239 senior teams, over 1,000 matches per year. We remain one of the largest local leagues in the Country.

Fortunately, the last two seasons have been played with promotion and relegation.

The Aldershot and District League has an excellent committee. My thanks go out to Alison Fortune who is the secretary, Andrew Littlecott, treasurer, Darrell Merrick-Willson, men's results secretary and pennants organiser, Carole Lee, ladies results secretary, Sam Williamson, mixed results secretary, Chris Iles who maintains the website and Brian Greig. 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 extra work she and Chris Iles do on the online results system.

As a committee, we have had six committee meetings including the LTA Rules and Regulations for County and District Leagues with excellent attendance. Match secretaries were advised about this by Alison on 1st June 2022. Chris and Sam went on the LTA webinar on 3rd May 2022. All clubs will have to register as per Alison's communication on 1st June 2022 to play in the League. Also, team players will be required to have a British Tennis membership number sometime in the near future.

As usual, there is still confusion with some team captains and members being unaware of some of the match rules. Rules should be displayed in your clubhouse or if you haven't got a clubhouse, please 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 and the online system. Please make sure that match secretary changes during the season are communicated via the website or the ADLTA e-mail. You can now submit online Summer and Winter league entries, nominations, club details, Chairman, Match Secretary and Secretary details.

There have been two instances reported to the committee of very offensive language and verbal abuse during and after some matches. This will not be tolerated by the committee.

Please note that the Football World Cup takes place in November and December. Match dates cannot be re-arranged.

As I said last year at the AGM, I have been on the ADLTA committee for over 30 years and Chairman for 12 years. I was hoping to step down at this AGM but even though we have asked for someone to step forward, no-one has. In view of this, and to maintain continuity, I will continue in this role. I would, however, like to reiterate that we need to find someone to take on the role of Chairman. If anyone is interested, please contact me on 01252 715711.

I would like to personally thank all the volunteers in your clubs who do so much. My thanks also go to Avondale Tennis Club for hosting the AGM.

5. **Treasurer's Report**

Andrew presented the accounts for the last year. The previous accounting period was for 18 months so a direct comparison is not really helpful, we will have to wait until the next AGM for a valid yearly comparison.

During the lockdown the LTA generated invoices, cheques were sent to cover these however the cheques have not been cashed (and are now out of date). Andrew and the auditor have ring fenced money to cover these invoices.

There were no questions from the floor regarding the accounts.

Andrew thanked Peter Hill for auditing the accounts and Peter is happy to continue as auditor.

Paul Adlam (Brightwell) asked why we did not use electronic banking. Andrew stated that we had a community account and now accepted electronic transfers so it wasn't necessary.

6. **Election of the committee**

Keith asked if there were any volunteers to join the committee. There were none, however if anyone wished to talk about joining after the meeting they would be welcome to. Keith reported that the committee were happy to continue.

Keith Morris	Chairman
Andrew Littlecott	Treasurer
Alison Fortune	Secretary
Chris Iles	ADLTA website
Carole Lee	Ladies League Secretary
Sam Williamson	Mixed League Secretary
Brian Greig	Junior League Secretary
Laura Williams	Online lead
Darrell Merrick-Wilson	Mens League Secretary & Pennants

Proposer	Paul Adlam
Secunder	Peter Millard

The committee was unanimously voted in, on bloc.

7. **Election of Auditor**

Peter Hill is prepared to continue as Auditor.

Propser	Carole Lee
Secunder	Sam Williamson

Carried unanimously.

8. Presentation of Trophies

Trophies were presented to Avondale Mens A for summer 2022 and Mixed A for summer 2022, Brightwell Ladies A for summer 2022, and Bourne ladies A for winter 21/22. Camberley were not present to collect the trophies for winning the mens and mixed winter leagues.

9. Proposals

1 Players moving clubs

No player may play for more than one club in any one group in any season, unless 21 days written notice of the player's intention to transfer is given to the ADLTA league secretary and approved. The 21 days will begin from the date that the notice is received. A notification must be received directly from the player.

If approved, the league secretary must forward the transfer request to the player's current match secretary. Having notified the league secretary of their intention to cease playing for their current club, the player may continue to play for them, until the notice period is up. The player may then play for any league club, becoming tied to the first they play** for, after the notice period. This includes their original club.

* "Play" is defined as, "named on a website score card in a match in which the player completed at least one game, partnering a player eligible to play for that team and club."

Proposed by the committee

Chris explained the reasoning behind this, it is effectively a relaxing of a rule so that if a player moves to another club and wishes to play for that club they can do, rather than having to remain with their old club for the rest of the season. Clearly we do not want players to keep moving back and forth between clubs during a season.

It was asked why it wouldn't be approved, there is no obvious reason why a request wouldn't be approved unless, of course, a player kept trying to switch back and forth between clubs.

Ash pointed out that with different renewal dates for clubs a player could join a club whilst still belonging to another and both clubs might expect that player would play for them.

A question from the floor asked about playing for 2 clubs in the same league, eg mens. It was pointed out that this was not allowed, however a player could play mens for one club and mixed for another.

It was pointed out that if a player moved house they may well want to move club, or they might just not be happy with their team or it's division and wish to move to another club.

Proposer Chris Iles
Seconder Sam Williamson

For a clear majority
Against none
Proposal carried.

2 LTA Affiliation

Any club playing in our league must be affiliated to the LTA and be an LTA registered venue. All members should, if possible, have BTM or an LTA Advantage number from Spring 2023.

Proposed by the committee

Peter Millard (Normandy) commented that names and numbers were already a problem.

Chris said that 95% of members should have numbers. Keith asked if anyone had had time to read all the LTA documentation?

BTM numbers are personal and not related to clubs. A player can link themselves via their BTM number to multiple clubs (venues). Darrell handed out a leaflet she had prepared and said that she had got players at her club to do it sooner rather than later.

Cath Pearson (Avondale) asked if the software would update the information? Currently we opt out of the software option so there is no link to the LTA database but in future we don't think we will be able to opt out and will have to use this feature.

If you have an advantage membership you can go into the Wimbledon ticket draw.

Chris has looked at alternative software, some of which looks good however the costs are significantly higher at £10 a club rather than the £2 per club we currently pay.

Paul Adlam (Brightwells) commented that as a club they have to join the LTA but the resulting insurance cover was a good benefit.

All clubs will need to be LTA affiliated venues which will cause a problem for council courts.

Keith commented that volunteers are referenced in the LTA booklet. There was a possible concern that teams or clubs could be penalised if opposition players aren't registered.

Proposer ADLTA committee
Seconder Paul Adlam

For All
Against None

3 Junior tennis

Unfortunately Matt Marlow was unable to attend so Keith read out Matt's proposal

A new team-based singles and doubles league for U12's, 14's and 16's boys and girls mixed together or separate. Each team will have 3 players for each fixture.

Match format

Each match is first to 4 games with sudden death deuce. If it goes 3-3 a normal tiebreak to 7 should be played.

Round 1: Player 3 v Player 3 in singles
Player 1 and 2 v Player 1 and 2 in doubles

Round 2: Player 2 v Player 2 in singles
Player 1 and 3 v Player 1 and 3 in doubles

Round 3: Player 1 v Player 1 in singles
Player 2 and 3 v Player 2 and 3 in doubles.

A point is awarded for each set match that is won.

Matches should be set to a specific day of the weekend to create consistency similar to other sports.

There could be clashes with the Surrey league, however a number of clubs expressed their interest (Alton, Ash, Frimley, Onslow, Brightwell & Surrey Sports Park). The concerns over a fixed date were raised, although it was felt that coaches would prefer this.

Brian Greig, junior league secretary, stated that previously, fixtures were organised at fixture evenings usually at the weekend however this resulted in clashes with other sports. The fixed date idea could be tricky to set. During the 1990's the junior leagues were very well supported, more recently numbers for the junior leagues have dwindled with, at most, 6-7 clubs entering 1 or 2 teams across a number of categories resulting in some leagues not running and a small number of leagues running with just 3 entrants. The committee is very keen to promote junior tennis if it is feasible. There could be issues with court time and leagues need the commitment of coaches and parents.

Paul Adlam commented that safeguarding in tennis is weak in comparison to football.

Cath Pearson mentioned girls playing in boys teams if needed and when there were no girls teams.

Onslow felt that flexibility was important, if matches were fixed on Saturdays there would be clashes with football matches and on Sunday mornings all their court were in use.

The committee will take forward the proposal if it is viable. All clubs will be contacted rather than just the interested clubs mentioned above.

10. Standings calculation discussion

As this is quite a complicated issue a discussion note was circulated to clubs before the meeting.

Chris opened the discussion saying that there were various criteria for determining a team's position in a table and the discussion document put forward an alternative to our current system in order to provoke discussion with a view to any future proposals around this issue.

The premise being that winning a best of 3 sets rubber 2-0 is better than a 2-1 sets win and winning a set 6-2 is better than winning it 7-5, i.e. winning better should be rewarded.

We currently use match points then games won whereas it might be better to use match points then sets percentage or set difference and then games percentage for both summer and winter. In the majority of cases points are all that are needed but occasionally there are instances of teams on equal points and so our criteria does affect relegation or promotion and for the teams involved it could be very important. As there are a defined number of sets in the summer, winter matches are more likely to be affected. Walkovers have a big impact with 6-0 results however this is the same if one pair is missing.

There were some suggestions and thoughts from the floor;

Any system needs to be as simple as possible.

It was felt that 6-0 is better than 7-6 win and deserved a reward and that a 6-0 6-0 win trumps a 6-4 6-4 win.

Could a 6-0 win be rewarded with a bonus point however, if a team doesn't turn up you win 6-0 but would be penalised by not being able to play and gain the extra point?

Keith pointed out that up to 1999 match points, then set % and then games % was used until it was changed at that AGM.

A set can be 6 to 13 games.

If there was a deciding tiebreak 3rd set 1-0, there was a 1 game difference not 6 games and a set.

As there are a defined number of sets in the summer, winter matches are more likely to be affected.

Chris reminded people that any club can put in a proposal about the scoring system.

A show of hands was held for a general consensus which was roughly 3 to 1 in favour of changing the current scoring system.

11. AOB

Brian said a few words about Keith who has been active in local tennis for over 30 years, as has Brian. Keith was presented with a small gift and a round of applause.

Keith admitted he enjoyed being on the committee.