

# *Aldershot & District Lawn Tennis Association*

*Affiliated to Hants & Isle Of Wight LTA*

## **MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 13<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2019, at AVONDALE LAWN TENNIS CLUB**

The Chairman, Keith Morris, opened the meeting.

Present: 58 people attended, representing 19 clubs.

### **1. Apologies**

Laura Williams, Claire Knight-Noel (Rowledge), Nigel Hill (Farnborough) and Phil Scott (Grayshott).

### **2. Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2018, 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 26 clubs, Summer and Winter leagues totalling 233 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, new committee member, Darrell Merrick-Willson, who is the 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 and the online system. Please make sure that match secretary changes during the season are communicated via the ADLTA e-mail. You may have noticed that we now have a logo as we felt it was time we joined the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Yet 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 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.

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.

Any set that a team wishes to claim due to the lateness of a pair must be done so before a set is played NOT after playing and losing the set.

Thanks to Avondale Tennis Club for hosting the A.G.M.  
Thanks to all of you and the other volunteers in your clubs who do so much.

I wish you all success in 2019.

## 5. **Treasurer's Report**

Andrew presented the Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2018. 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 & ADLTA website
Carole Lee	Ladies League Secretary
Sam Williamson	Mixed League Secretary
Brian Greig	Junior League Secretary
Laura Williams	Online lead
Darrell Merrick-Wilson	Pennants

Proposed: Peter Millard (Normandy)

Seconded: Tim Wakefield (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: Brian Greig (Wrecclesham)

Seconded: Paul Adlam (Brightwell)

Carried unanimously.

## 8. **Presentation of cups**

Mens A Winter	Brightwell
Ladies A Winter	Brightwell
Mixed A Winter	Brightwell
Mens A Summer	David Lloyd
Ladies A Summer	Brightwell
Mixed A Summer	Brightwell

## 9. Proposal

The Summer League for Men's, Ladies and Mixed move to 2 pairs, each pair playing 2 rubbers comprising of 2 sets per rubber with a 7- point tie-break at 6-6 in games for each set. Where a match is drawn in terms of number of sets played, each Captain will nominate a pair to play a 10-point Championship Breaker to determine the winning team overall.

Each set and Championship Breaker will carry the same value in points as is currently in place, 2 points.

Proposer: Sacha Williams (Camberley)

Seconder: Liz Burr (Camberley)

Sacha spoke for the proposal. His points were that it would reduce waiting times, more tennis would be played, there would be no "one set shoot out" style tennis, it would reduce the chance of flood lights going out during matches and other local leagues use this format. He commented that they were happy to be flexible if other clubs had better suggestions. It was pointed out that representatives from clubs had come to the meeting to vote specifically on this proposal only and that it could not be changed at the meeting. It had been suggested to Sacha that up to 3 proposals could be put forward but were not.

There was much discussion, the major comments and points raised are summarized below.

Cath Pearson (Avondale) – the idea of nominating a pair to decide the fixture in the event of a draw was odd and just like a "one set shoot out", pairs might have to wait around for this.

Paul Adlam (Brightwell) – asked how many times Camberley had been affected by this, there were 5 occasions when they couldn't field a team of 6 (from 185 members).

Tim Wakefield (Frimley) – felt the timings on lights still might be a challenge, more people playing would be good and there might be more evenly balanced pairs making better matches.

Lyn Lassiter (Brightwell) – they would struggle for court space with more teams and it would be harder for lower teams to improve.

Andrew Littlecott (Surrey Sports Park) – more teams would require more court capacity, without this there would be fewer players, it would only benefit the better players.

Peter Millard (Normandy) – they had court space for 3 teams and as a small club found it hard to field 6 players for each team every week.

Chris Iles – in the winter when the format is 2 pairs 10% of matches were a pair short, in the summer with 3 pairs the figure is the same so there might not be an improvement if the format is changed.

Linda Kent (Ald Meths) – court time and lights would mean less teams for them, they may have issues with fitting in a tiebreak too.

Brian Greig (Wrecclesham) – fixture congestion and junior court use would mean a third of players would be cut out of matches, this is clearly a retrograde step to keep top players satisfied and wouldn't help young or improving players.

Andrew Littlecott – with a third pair it allowed one pair to arrive later than 6:30pm start time potentially allowing people to still play if they couldn't leave work early or had a long travel time.

Paul Adlam – the 6 player format allows junior players to come in at a lower level and more up through the teams as they develop, this is investing in the future of the clubs and improving participation at all levels.

Keith Morris – this was first raised in 1997, it doesn't give a good B team player a chance to move up a level, the LTA is about tennis for all.

Sarah Hamilton (Worplesdon) – can't enter extra teams as no more court space and even if they could it would be harder with clashes when 2 teams are playing.

Ellen Smith (Frimley) – asked if there were any clubs who would enter teams if the format was changed?

Onslow don't like the current format and would enter teams if it were changed,

Gillian Hyman (Badshot Lea) – format would favour smaller clubs however with no lights they could still run out of time.

Adele Smith (Bourne) – court capacity an issue, less people would play if the format was changed.

Sacha - their aim is to cut down waiting time and help when clubs struggling to get teams out, they want something that will work for everyone and happy to be flexible.

Keith asked for an initial show of hands to gauge the view of the floor. From this it was clear that a majority were **NOT** in favour of the proposal (2 thirds to 1 third). As a result, no further action was taken, the proposal was not carried. In the event of a much closer show of hands, a club by club count would have been conducted to make sure the vote was accurate.

Paul Adlam commented that it was good to question and review the leagues.

Brian Greig – when the league started it was in this format. However, a team was awarded 2 points for a 5-4 win and still only 2 points for a 9-0 win. This was unpopular.

## 10. AOB

The summer league runs from April to July, could it start earlier? Clubs can start their fixtures earlier if their opposition agrees although light may be an issue, some clubs start their first few matches at 6:15pm rather than 6:30pm. Bank Holidays are an issue.

Ellen Smith, thought the notice for the winter was particularly short this year. Given the entry date is 31<sup>st</sup> July, fixture information goes to clubs as soon as possible, Now there is no fixtures evening, the week breathing space after the meeting has gone.

Cath Pearson – a blank week after the first round of fixtures would be nice. Smaller divisions would solve this.

Greg Smith (Avondale) asked if ADLTA could accept BACS payments? Andrew replied that the account we have is not an online one so no.

The timing of the AGM within the year was raised by the committee. Had the proposal been accepted it would not have been implemented until summer 2020 as it was a major change and would require careful implementation. As a result, should we move the AGM to November so any major changes could be implemented for the following summer. There were no strong opinions from the floor just the comment that any winter changes might not be implemented until the following winter.

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