

Banbury and District Tennis Leagues

Minutes of AGM
28th January 2020
Brackley Tennis Club

Present

Mark Wolton (League Chairman, Banbury West End), Trevor Stevens (League Treasurer), Art Kharlamov (League Secretary), Judy Kirk (Charlbury), Liz Forbes (Charlbury), Caroline Morland (Harbury), Steve Stark (Harbury), June Ward (Deddington), Libby Gibbs (Deddington), Maureen McAree (Towcestrians), Sue Waters (Middleton Cheney), Helen Harman (Middleton Cheney), Lizzie Cooke (Warwick), Julian Gardner (Tysoe), Richard Stidworthy (Banbury), Shirley Griffith (Brackley)

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7:33 p.m. by welcoming all attendees and thanking Brackley for arranging the meeting venue, food and drinks.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Sylvia Wilcox (Tysoe), Sandra Parsons (Kings Sutton), Barrie Smith (Hook Norton) and Richard Carey (Brackley)

The following clubs also had no representatives attending the meeting:

- Byfield
- Priors Marston

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (29th January 2019)

The Minutes were circulated. They had been previously posted on the Banbury Tennis Leagues website. The Chairman asked the meeting to review them page by page and asked whether there were any questions, comments or corrections. There were none.

Richard Stidworthy (Banbury) proposed the Minutes be accepted. The proposal was seconded by Steve Stark (Harbury) and the Minutes were accepted by all those present.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes

The Chairman asked if there were any further matters arising from the Minutes. There were none.

4. Secretary's Report

The League Secretary then delivered his report which was accepted by the meeting attendees. The summary is available on the League website. He summarised the challenges the Leagues faced since the last AGM and the improvements which were made to the website and the Playwaze driven score entry and table generating system despite some technical difficulties outside of our control. He has also congratulated the teams who have achieved exceptional results in the Summer and Summer Weekend Leagues.

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented a copy of the accounts for Year Ended 31st January 2020 which he summarised and then circulated for review. It is available on the banburytennisleagues.com website.

The Treasurer highlighted that the income over expenditure had improved and the surplus was about £220 (£221.36 as per accounts).

The Chairman then asked the meeting to approve the accounts as presented. Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Caroline Morland (Harbury), seconded by Lizzie Cooke (Warwick) and carried unanimously.

6. Election of Officers

The Chairman reminded the meeting that it was previously agreed that the role of Chairman would be on a revolving basis whereby club names will be picked "out of the hat" annually but if it will help, he is willing to continue as Chairman if there will be no other nominations.

The Treasurer then reminded that he would like to step down. He also said that he has recently had health problems and that a replacement should be found soon. After further discussion he has agreed to continue for another year on the condition that it will be definitely his last in the role.

The Secretary expressed his willingness to continue in his role unless someone else would like to take over.

The Chairman then asked whether the meeting is happy to re-elect current Chairman Leagues Treasurer and Leagues Secretary, and this carried unanimously by a show of hands.

The Chairman thanked the meeting and asked to be on a look out for potential new volunteers to be committee members.

7. Proposals

Put forward by Mark Wolton in his email dated 31.10.19:

Here is a proposal for discussion for a change in format for the Summer leagues next year (although I would be happy to propose this for all formats):

Instead of playing 11 games I would like to propose we move to normal tennis sets but with no advantage scoring. This means, if the score reaches deuce, it's a sudden death point with the receiving pair deciding who receives the serve. Note however the pair cannot change positions and in sets of mixed doubles the player of the same gender shall receive.

This would speed up play and allow matches to start at a later time of 6.15 if clubs wanted to, no doubt allowing more people to play for their clubs in the Summer. It would also mean we were playing a current competitive format - certainly I've never heard of anyone else playing 11 games in competitions anyway. It would also eliminate the 'dead' games problem within the current format.

After extensive discussions it have been decided to keep the current format of the Summer Leagues untouched but as a trial only for 2020 Summer Season to play a "Silver Deuce" rule in the Summer Weekday League only. No such change in rules for the Weekend League. This was agreed and voted for by a show of hands and carried.

8. Formation of the 2020 Summer League

At the time of the AGM it was understood that there were 29 teams entered however few weeks after the AGM one more team (Charlbury C) has been added.

The meeting was asked to vote for two options. One preserving the promotions from the previous season and the one "levelling out" the number of the teams in each division.

After extensive discussions two options (as copied below) were put to the vote:

Option 1: Four Divisions 8/7/6/7

Option 2: Four Divisions 7/7/7/7

Option 1 (as copied below) was voted for by a show of hands

Then the meeting discussed whether there was an appetite to have a realignment in terms of the number of teams in each division.

The question was put forward whether the meeting supports a possible change to 5 divisions in the next (Summer 2021) league where preserving promotions may not be possible. The aim of this change is to be to reduce the number of fixtures for each team.

The motion was carried 12 to 2

9. Formation of the 2020 New Summer Weekend League

One option was proposed which is copied below.

From the entries received it was clear that the Mens division is not going to be viable as only one team (Byfield) entered.

There were only 3 entries in the Ladies Division and 5 entries in the Mixed division.

After a long discussion about the feasibility of the Summer Weekend League where BTL are competing for clubs/players desire to play with the likes of Oxfordshire Babolat League

The Chairman then asked to approve the proposal as presented:

3 Ladies Teams (possibly playing each other twice, TBC) and 5 Mixed Teams.
It was carried unanimously by show of hands.

Additionally, it was agreed that due to lack of interest from BTL clubs in 2021 the forms for the Men's Weekend League will not be sent out unless there will be a big change in circumstances.

10. Any Other Business

The Chairman asked if there was any other business.

There being no further business to attend to the meeting closed at 9:18 p.m.

Formation of 2020 Summer League (Midweek)

Option 1 - preserving promotions

Division 1

Byfield A
Hook Norton A
Charlbury A
Banbury A
Kings Sutton A
Banbury West End A
Byfield B
Deddington B

Division 2

Middleton Cheney A
Deddington A
Brackley A
Hook Norton B
Harbury
Middleton Cheney B
Charlbury B

Division 3

Byfield C
Byfield D
Brackley B
Banbury West End B
Kings Sutton B
Hook Norton C

Division 4

Tysoe A
Banbury C
Deddington C
Deddington D
Banbury West End C
Brackley C
Hook Norton D

Formation 2020 Summer League (Weekend)

Ladies

Byfield Ladies
Warwick Ladies
Kings Sutton Ladies

Mixed

Harbury Mixed
Priors Marston A
Byfield Mixed
Kings Sutton Mixed
Towcestrians Mixed