

Banbury and District Tennis Leagues

Minutes of AGM
16th February 2022
Online – Microsoft Teams Meeting

Present

Sue Jelfs (Banbury West End), Trevor Stevens (League Treasurer), Art Kharlamov (League Secretary), Shirley Griffith (Brackley), Darrel Foulk (Kings Sutton), Jeremy Palmer (Byfield), Judy Kirk (Charlbury), Nigel Eaton (Harbury), June Ward (Deddington), Helen Harman (Middleton Cheney), Rod Haddrell (Banbury), Renato Lusardi (Hook Norton), Sylvia Wilcox (Tysoe), Lizzie Cooke (Warwick)

Sue Jelfs opened the meeting at 7:32 p.m. by welcoming all attendees and saying thank you to Art for setting the Microsoft Teams meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence

There was no apologies received

The following clubs also had no representatives attending the meeting:

- Priors Marston
- Towcestrians

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (23rd March 2021)

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

Sylvia Wilcox (Tysoe) proposed the Minutes be accepted. The proposal was seconded by Renato Lusardi (Hook Norton) 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 that the leagues were once again forced by the circumstances to hold the meeting online and not in person, hopefully one last time.

The secretary summarised the situation with Covid lockdowns which have resulted with the floodlit league been approximately one month late with a knock-on effect on proposed dates for summer leagues start. He then talked about the difficulties with Playwaze bugs which were of course annoying but

lockingly were mainly on the leagues design side so it did not affect the general use of the platform.

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer stated that while the final figures were not ready yet at this point the finances of the leagues were strong with the last statement at the end of January showing £1656 in the accounts. The year was not easy and Trevor had to contact 9 out of the 14 clubs in the leagues regarding either overpayments or overpayments for subs. It is available on the banburytennisleagues.com website. Trevor then spoke regarding the hand over to Tysoe and said that Sylvia Wilcox was the treasurer of BTL prior to 1997.

Trevor said that he is waiting for the response to adjustments from some of the clubs and that he will be in contact with Sylvia and then release the accounts which could be then circulated via email and published on BTL website.

6. Election of Officers

Sue Jelfs reminded the meeting that it was previously decided that the role of Treasurer will be going to Tysoe.

Art Kharlamov agreed to continue as the leagues secretary for another year stating that although he is stretched at work with the current workload he is just about able to continue with the BTL role.

Sue Jelfs have asked the meeting if there were any volunteers or nominations for the vacant chair position but there was none.

The meeting then decided to select a club using a PickerWheel.com method previously used for selecting a club to nominate the leagues treasurer and then Tysoe and Priors Marston should be excluded from nominating a Chair.

A wheel containing all remaining league's clubs was then spun and as result Warwick was selected as a nominating club for the Chair role to start in 2022.

7. Proposals

The following proposals were then discussed in details:

1. Nigel Eaton (Harbury)

*"Proposal: To amend the way match fees are paid for Floodlit league matches
Last summer, post lockdown, most players did not want to pay match fees by cash but rather by bank transfer. With a mixture of some cash and mostly bank transfers, and often with delays between matches being played and fees paid, it was very difficult reconciling fees with matches. This winter we have moved to a system where we record the number of home Floodlit and Week-end matches played by each person, and will advise at the end of the season what fees are due. Unfortunately, under the current rules, this does not work for Floodlit league away matches where we have to ensure that players take cash to pay the host club. We would like to change this system so that all match fees are paid to each player's own club. This would give a consistent method across all leagues, and allow the flexibility for clubs to collect fees from their own players at each match or at the end of the season. There may be issues where teams*

are playing their home matches at an alternative club. However, I hope that separate arrangements could be put in place in these instances. "

Als input for AOB

- 1. Do we offer food after matches?*
- 2. Are we continuing to use Silver Deuces? (See proposal number 2)*
- 3. I have been asked to remind clubs of the need to have a first aid kit available for all matches, and a form where details of any accidents/incidents should be recorded for insurance purposes.*

There was a vote and there results were 1 person supporting the proposal, 2 obtaining and the rest against accepting the proposal. The proposal was not accepted.

All present voted in support of providing just warm drinks and light snacks like biscuits or crisps etc.

2. Darrel Foulk (Kings Sutton)

" I'd like to propose we scrap the silver deuce for the midweek summer league. It ruins the game! So I'd like to propose that at the AGM."

A vote was taken and proposal to scrap silver deuce rule was accepted. 7 voted and 2 voted against.

3. Sue Jelfs (Banbury West End)

"At BWE we are currently reviewing match fees and although the review is not complete, it is evident that the floodlit fees of £3.50 per person, HGudo not cover the cost of the match. With the increase in energy, the Club believes a satisfactory fee would be £5 per person and would like this to be added to the agenda please. There has been a similar proposal in the past which was turned down largely because those clubs without lights outnumbered those who did and unsurprisingly voted against an increase in fees! I think most clubs do have lights now so the "playing field" may be more even."

Proposal was discussed in details with pro and cons but the majority of clubs were against increasing the fees and as result the proposal was not even put to vote.

The discussion then was focusing on whether the teams should be announcing their 1,2, and 3s before the match is actually started or is it allowed to play tactically and perhaps playing their strongest player as number 2. A vote was taken and with a small margin 4 to 3 with 2 undecided it was accepted that the rules are to be changed so the clubs must declare their 1, 2 and 3s before the match with action on Art to change the rules.

8. Formation of the 2021 Summer and New Summer Weekend Leagues

The meeting discussed the situation with the weekend leagues where for the last few years was not enough entries and finally in 2022 it was not possible to run the Ladies division anymore because Warwick, understandably, decided to pull their team from BTL and enter into another league.

For the summer League there was 3 different options discussed and voted for:

Option 1 - preserving promotions where possible - Charlbury A lucky loser

Option 2 - preserving promotions where possible - Charlbury A demoted to Div2-modified to equal out divisions

Option 3 - not preserving promotions - divisions reset in order to make number of teams more equal and less matches - 5th division added

After long discussions in which club representatives presented their views on the ideal number of teams in the divisions and whether it is important to preserve promotions and relegations a vote has taken place in which a modified version of Option 2 was voted for with 9 supporting the option.

Shirley Griffith then requested that a note is to be made that in this option two teams Harbury and Brackley B were effectively penalised and did not get their won promotions so if this situation appears again next year we need to make sure that it is not the same teams are penalised again.

9. Any Other Business

Sue Jelfs asked if there was any other business.

Nigel Eaton have asked that more clubs and captains paid attention to the managing their teams in Playwaze and add their current squad to make it easier for other captains to submit results, even if they are using the Playwaze app which has many limitations.

There was also some questions on the use of Playwaze and Art was able to provide answers and demonstrated online.

There being no further business to attend to the meeting closed at 9:28 p.m.