

Banbury and District Tennis Leagues

Minutes of AGM

16th February 2023

Venue: Brackley Tennis Club

Present

Steve Drummond (League Chairman), Trevor Stevens (League Treasurer), Art Kharlamov (League Secretary), Sue Jelfs (Banbury West End), Andi Padbury (Banbury West End), Shirley Griffith (Brackley), Jeremy Palmer (Byfield), Martin Jukes (Charlbury), Nigel Eaton (Harbury), Helen Harman (Middleton Cheney), Rod Haddrell (Banbury), Renato Lusardi (Hook Norton), Sylvia Wilcox (Tysoe), Julian Gardner (Tysoe), Lizzie Cooke (Warwick)

Steve Drummond opened the meeting at 7:34 p.m. by welcoming all attendees and introducing himself as a new chairman nominated by Warwick TC as selected by a picker wheel draw during the 2022 AGM.

1. Apologies for Absence

Darrel Foulk (Kings Sutton), June Ward (Deddington), Candi Hudson (Towcestrians)

The following clubs also had no representatives attending the meeting:

- Priors Marston

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (16th February 2022)

The Minutes were circulated. They had been previously posted on the Banbury Tennis Leagues website. Steve Drummond asked the meeting to review them and asked whether there were any questions, comments or corrections. Sylvia Wilcox (Tysoe) pointed out that the 2022 meeting stated that she was nominated as a treasurer but in fact it was the Tysoe TC which was selected to nominate a treasurer and it would be another member of Tysoe club Carol Spenser who will be doing it.

Martin Jukes (Charlbury) proposed the Minutes be accepted. The proposal was seconded by Sylvia Wilcox (Tysoe) 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. The Secretary responded that he has changed the rules published on the banburytennisleagues.com website in line with the decisions and votes taken last year. There was no other matters arising from the last year's Minutes.

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 mentioned his personal problems arising from the fact that his family is originally from Ukraine some of his relatives are in the war zone.

The secretary also mentioned a problem with the Zara software which is stopped working due to Windows updates and therefore it is not possible to create winners and runners-up certificates. There was also a discussion about improving communication and informing club secretaries about any delays. The request was taken on board and then the meeting discussed the timing of releasing the summer and winter fixtures and finding a better and more modern solution for printing the leagues certificates.

To conclude the secretary congratulated Byfield A team for winning the last summer league without dropping a match and doing the same in the summer weekend leagues. It was an amazing achievement that BTL have managed to almost continuously play as and when it was legal during the pandemic and managed to navigate these difficult times financially.

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented the 2021, 2022 and 2023 financial reports and compared BTL income and expenditures. The financial reports were previously circulated to the meeting and earlier sent via email.

Trevor said that at the same time last year about three quarters of the clubs had queries with him hence the reason for a balancing figure which he deemed small enough not to pursue. Starting with income in 2022 which BTL ended with 667 pounds income over expense. In the Floodlit/Winter season of 2022-2023 there was a dramatic change.

First of all the new summer league, the demise of the new summer league restricted numbers. Additionally, some clubs used to have four teams and we went to two teams. Obviously to expect to expect the same in future Trevor rec said that the 17 pounds per club entry fee is not quite enough and should be increased going forward.

That was enough to get to leave the leagues in a healthy position going forward. The increase from 16 to 17 was in respect to the extra software charge for Playwaze (£180 per year)

We expected that we would get more play in the weekend leagues but it didn't happen.

If we had more teams entering, then it doesn't really matter whether the fee was 17 or 16 pounds.

It makes a big difference if 5 or 10 less teams entered overall.

From what we can see there is more demand for our winter leagues than for our summer leagues because I think there are a lot of other leagues around which are run only in the summer.

So the clubs play in other summer leagues and therefore BTL summer weekend leagues are struggling.

The balance on the bank account is quite healthy at the moment but if it doesn't increase our fees per club that will soon be years to come.

A lengthy discussion followed on whether or not the entry fees need to be increased and when.

A vote was taken for increasing the entry fees to £20 starting from the winter 2023-2024 season and accepted by the meeting with only one club objecting and proposing that the increase was more gradual.

6. Election of Officers

Current league chairman Steve Drummond said that it is strange for him to be a chairman, while he is no longer playing in any of the leagues. Following a discussion and a proposal that the role should be rotating yearly with all the clubs in the leagues, perhaps in an alphabetical order Martin Jukes (Charlbury) agreed to take the role from Steve Drummond for next year.

It was previously decided that the role of Treasurer will be going to Tysoe and Carol Spencer (current secretary of Tysoe TC) will be taking over from Trevor going forward for the period of 3 years.

Art Kharlamov agreed to continue as the leagues secretary for another year stating that it would be difficult to pass everything to another person.

7. Proposals

The following proposals were then discussed in details:

Shirley Griffith (Brackley)

To discuss whether we need to add something to the rules about the number of coaches that can play in any one match – as not really in the spirit of the leagues?

A long discussion followed regarding coaches playing and the consensus was that if the coaches are playing for the team then they should be not only playing for the A team but also should be a regular players and not brought in in the last one or two games. At the end Steve Drummond said that he will investigate what rules exist in the Coventry league in the respect of coaches playing and circulate them via email for discussion at the next AGM.

8. Formation of the 2023 Summer and New Summer Weekend Leagues

The Leagues Secretary presented only one version of the of the Summer Weekday league which had 7 teams in Divisions 1, 2 and 3 and only 5 teams in the Division 4.

This again as in previous years prompted 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.

At the end the meeting agreed with the Leagues Secretary that it make sense to have less teams in the last division because when new teams added they are always added to the last division. Based on this the meeting accepted the 7,7,7,5 format for the Summer Weekday league.

When discussing the Summer Weekend entries it was made clear that the clubs are not entering enough teams to make the Weekend League viable.

There was no possibility to paly both Mens and Ladies divisions and even Mixed with only 4 clubs entering is also make little sense.

Clearly the clubs are entering other summer leagues such as Oxfordshire, Coventry, National Summer Leagues and therefore the demand for BTL leagues is not there.

9. Any Other Business

Steve Drummond asked if there was any other business.

The question was raised regarding late finishes to some matches and in particular when the matches are ending after 10.30pm.

A silver deuce rule was discussed again but due to not been popular it was not adopted even in the Summer league and therefore bringing it into the Floodlit matches makes little sense.

Other options as playing shorts sets in the mixed or even playing 11 games as in the Summer leagues were discussed but not deemed to be acceptable.

At the end a decision was made for the club secretaries to go back to their teams and ask them whether a late finish is a problem for them. Some clubs like Deddington for example have all their matches starting at 6.30pm and perhaps this could be a solution for some other clubs too.

It was decided that such a major change as changing a format of play would need a formal proposal to be submitted for the next AGM and therefore it is better to better to do proper works first to find out if this is a problem for the majority of the clubs.

The cost of Lights fees was discussed again and how the fees are collected. After a lengthy discussion it was decided the club secretaries will go back to their teams and then submit their response to be collated by the Leagues Secretary.

The next topic was provision of refreshments and snacks and it was agreed that this a matter for the two captains to agree between them.

There being no further business to attend to the meeting closed at 9:33 p.m.

Post AGM proposals vote results are copied below:

	Increase floodlit match fees to £4	Fees always paid to own club	Notes				
BWE	Yes	Abstain	also would like to reduce duration of winter matches by changing current match format - perhaps for 2024 AGM discussions				
Brackley	No	No					
Hook Norton	Yes	Yes					
Harbury	No	Yes	Current match format ok but would like to start earlier i.e. 6.30pm. Also proposals for next AGM to regulate coaches play				
Middleton Cheney	Yes	No					
Byefield	Yes	Yes					
Warwick	Abstain	Abstain	Only playing in Weekend Winter League				
Deddington	Yes	Abstain?					
Banbury	Yes	No					
Kings Sutton	Yes	No					
Charlbury	Yes	No					
Towcester (does not currently play in the leagues)	Abstain	Yes	When playing - only Weekend League				

