



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 21th February 2017
Sheffield Transport Sports Club

1. Opening remarks of the President

Kay Rollings welcomed everyone to the meeting. She opened by announcing that this will be her last formal speech as president as she will hand over to John McGleave. She was disappointed in herself that it had taken her this long to learn that apparently she had immense power in this role. Learning from President Trump across the Pond she could have made some sweeping decisions. Ladies could have played matches on Saturday afternoons, and she could have banned anyone from playing topspin to her backhand... what an opportunity wasted!

She will remain on the committee as treasurer, and as such would particularly like to say thank you to our sponsors Dunlop Slazenger, to Deuce for all their support, and to all the other businesses who advertise on our websites.

Your committee this year have worked really hard. There is a lot more involved than just turning up to a meeting once every 6 weeks. There are phone calls and emails most weeks and a lot of hard work in between. She is sure that not every decision which has been made can be popular with everyone, but she can tell you that each decision has been with the best intentions for Sheffield tennis in mind. 2017 is going to be a year of change, as some people take a well-deserved rest from all they have done for Sheffield tennis, and we welcome the new people who have stepped up to take their place. We also have a new website which will launch this year, with a new method of recording scores. With so much change we may have the odd hiccup, please bear with us!

Final thank you goes to the outgoing committee for all they have done, and please continue to support your new committee through 2017.

2. Apologies

Apologies had been received from:

Alex Ritchie
Wilf Jessop
Chris Jones
Glyn Rudge
Audrey Stanton
Paul Sheard
Vinny McGrath

3. Proposal to formally accept the Sheffield and District Winter League as part of the S & D LTA.

Mick Mason outlined proposal to accept the Winter League as part of the S&D LTA. The management committee put forward the movement to vote on this issue. It was unanimously agreed to accept the proposal.

4. Minutes of the AGM held on 17th February 2016

The minutes for the AGM held on 17th February 2016 were formally approved.

5. Matters arising from the 2016 AGM

There were no matters arising.

6. Report of General Secretary

The General Secretary, Mick Mason, reported that it had again been a very busy year. The main details were as follows

- 8 Committee Meetings plus AGM and Council Meeting - preparation, minutes and any action points.
- The administration for the two coaching grant scheme “windows” has again been done by Jessica Redfearn this year and there were many more applications this year:
 - 8 in March (6 x level 1, 2 x level 2)– Total paid £1054.00
 - 9 in September (7 x level 1 and 2 x level 2) - Total paid £1168.00
 - Total for year £2222.00 – the highest amount we have ever paid out in a single year since the scheme started.
- There were no formal complaints this year over discipline issues.
- Another agreement has been reached with Dunlop Slazenger for a two year sponsorship. The deal will bring in £1000 per year to the Association together with 30 dozen free balls for each year of the contract.
- Dealing with a number of numerous general enquiries from club secretaries and others through the website enquiries or direct to me
- The new website development will be covered by Jess in the Council Meeting but the new site will provide a modern look and be good facility for the long term. I would like to thank Fabio Caparelli and Wilf Jessop for the work they have done over the years on the current site which started in 2003 and which has had over 1,205,000 visitors to date.

Mick thanked all club secs for their work and contact with himself and keeping him informed over the last 10 years.

The Winter League will now provide a year round tennis playing Association and he can only see the Association getting stronger.

Mick read out information provided by Paul Sheard who was unable to attend the meeting:

The tendering process for managing parks tennis in Sheffield has been taking place over the last two months and will be concluded shortly. An operator will then be appointed from the 1st April on a 10 year agreement, which will include overseeing delivery at 9 sites including court booking and coaching. The 9 sites are Hillsborough, Weston, Millhouses, High Hazels, Thorncliffe, Concord and Graves Park, as well as Forge Valley and Westfield Schools.

Court refurbishment projects have also been taking place at Millhouses and Graves Park over the recent months. These sites have been done with funding secured from Sheffield City Council, with the remaining funding from the LTA. The courts at both parks will be repainted in April to complete the refurbishment in time for the Spring season. The height of the fence at one end of the courts at Hillsborough Park has also been significantly increased to minimise the disruption from footballs coming over.

Despite £350 million of budget savings and the loss of a 1000 jobs over the last 5 years, the city council has made a commitment to continue with tennis provision but has had to find a new way to support the delivery of tennis in Sheffield, which it will do through the appointed operator. This should lead to more people playing tennis in Sheffield, who may go on to become members of tennis clubs.

The Summer Club Membership Offer will take place from spring onwards and will involve 7 clubs working collaboratively to promote as 6 week tennis membership offer, which they will then use to try and recruit new members.

There are a range of club facilities development projects being worked up for this year, with several Sheffield & District clubs in the process of making applications to the LTA and Yorkshire Tennis for funding support.

Finally, he said that he was not standing as General Secretary again. He has done the job for 10 years. There have been some challenges, difficulties, frustrations and some sadness but overwhelmingly he has enjoyed the work and the job very much, making many new friends along the way. He's had a really good working relationships with all of the seven Presidents during the 10 years and indeed with all of the committee members. In particular, he wanted to thank Bob Lamb for his wise counsel and help to him, and the Committee, over the 10 years but especially when he joined the Committee as VP in 2005.

The Clubs and members of the Association can be assured that the various Management Committees have dealt with all issues with the sole aim of what they believed to be in the best interests of the Association and not those of any particular club or individuals within them.

Lots of other people make contributions in their own way to the success of this Association and long may it continue.

Mark Busby has volunteered to take over his role and he wishes him and the new Management Committee all the best for the future.

7. Report of Treasurer and presentation of accounts for the year to 31st December 2016

Kay Rollings presented the accounts to the meeting.

As you can see from the report, this year we made a loss. This was due to our investment of over £5,000 in a new website, which as well as bringing the association into the 21st century will allow us to input scores directly, speeding up the process, and making the league secretaries job much easier.

Income was £586 higher than 2015, the main difference being fines.

Congratulations to Jess on making £807.50 on the dinner (and for organising such a fantastic event). As you can see, most of the profit comes from the raffle.

In terms of expenditures, apart from the website we also spent just over £1,000 on gratuities. This is recognition in the form of gifts to people who are standing down after working for Sheffield and District over a number of years, most but not all have been committee members. As some of the recipients are here tonight I don't think it's appropriate for me to read them out individually. Suffice it to say that these were discussed at committee and none of the recipients were involved in discussing their own award. Although it seems like a lot, actually we haven't paid any since 2013 when we paid £300, and the same in 2012 so on average its average. There is a feeling amongst some of the new committee that we should look at another way of marking service, perhaps in the form of a smaller gift and we will be discussing this in

our forthcoming committee meetings.

Admin costs have reduced year on year because last year we made a donation in memory of Andrew Foster, and we paid the historian who has been working with John Andrews £250 for researching a particular part of Sheffield tennis history.

The cost of the tournaments has reduced significantly, with the introduction of new, much cheaper medals for both the senior and the junior tournaments. Absolutely not the same quality that we have been used to but a saving of approximately £12.00 per medal has reduced the loss on the tournaments by almost £1,000 and the junior tournament made a profit.

Coaching grants were a lot higher than usual at £2,222. Which is a good thing.

From the balance sheet you can see that despite the expenditure on the website we have a bank balance of almost £14,000. The debtors are the fines for 2016 which largely relate to scorecards.

Looking forward Kay reported that we remain a going concern. It is not yet clear how much the advent of the new website will reduce the fines. If it proves to be significant we may need to think about capping the coaching grants

The meeting unanimously approved the accounts. Kay thanked Malcolm Lindley for doing the audit.

8. Installation of the President for 2017 – John McGleave

John McGleave was installed as the new president and commented that there were some influential people leaving the committee, Bob, Mick, Kevin, Margaret and John. He thanked all the outgoing committee members and gave a special thank you to Kay who took over the president role in difficult circumstances and steered the association extremely well. He welcomed the new committee members who will be elected this year. He also thanked Kevin Beaton for all his hard work in making the Winter League successful. Finally he announced that Bob Lamb was to receive LTA Meritorious Service Award and outlined some of the details of the tremendous service that Bob has given to tennis, not only to the S & D LTA but to his club at Mexborough, tennis in the region and to Yorkshire LTA which he served as both a Councillor for a number of years and finally as President for three years. The meeting gave Bob a well merited standing ovation.

9. Election of Officers

The Officers and committee were elected in accordance with the constitution.

General Secretary:	Mark Busby (Moorgate)
Treasurer:	Kay Rollings (Grove)
Auditor	Malcolm Lindley
Website co-ordinator:	Jessica Redfearn (Fulwood)
League Secretary:	Kevin Beaton (Doncaster)
Past President	Trevor Ward (Grove)
Sheffield YLTA representative	Martin Gilmour (Ecclesall)
Elected member	Paul Hattersley (Thornccliffe)

It will be a matter for the committee to consider if any co-opted members are required.

10. Subscriptions for 2017

The Treasurer had proposed that affiliation and team fees for 2017 should remain the same as in 2016. The Winter League will be charged in arrears £15 per team and will be on the April 2018 invoice.

The proposal was carried unanimously.

11. Applications for membership/withdrawal

One application for membership during the year from Ravenfield Tennis Club to join as an associate member club.

The management committee would like to accept the application. No objections from the meeting.

12. Changes to Rules/Bye-Laws

There are a number of proposed rule changes for the meeting to consider: 1, 2, 3 and 5 are proposed by the Management Committee and 4 is proposed by Moorgate Tennis Club.

1. Winter League Rule Proposal - New Bye law 26

The Management Committee wishes to make the formal transition of the Winter League into the S & D LTA as simple as possible. As part of this the Committee proposes that:

- The Winter League rules should follow the S & D rules as closely as possible.
- There is no need for player registration for senior matches as previously.
- Every club should be a member of the S & D LTA (all but one of the current clubs are) and the fees paid as per the current S & D rules.
- Rules for re-arranged matches, non-fulfilment of matches, completion of scorecards and the resulting process and provision of refreshments should follow the current S & D LTA rules as per the first bullet point.
- The format of matches should follow those for the midweek mixed matches i.e. doing away with the third set and replacing it with a tie-break to 10 (by two clear points).

It is proposed that the following be added a new bye-law, No. 26.

26. Winter League

- a. Winter Teams shall consist of two men and two ladies.
- b. Morning matches will start at 10:00 a.m. and afternoon matches at 1:00 p.m. unless specifically agreed by both captains.
- c. Morning matches: Any couple not on court to play 15 minutes after the agreed start time will forfeit the first set. The first rubber is to be conceded if not on court to play by 45 minutes after the agreed start time. The second rubber is to be conceded if not on court by 1 hour 15 minutes after agreed start time.
- d. Afternoon matches: Any couple not on court to play by 15 minutes after the agreed start time will forfeit the first set. The first rubber is to be conceded if not on court to play by 45 minutes after the agreed start time. The second rubber is to be conceded if not on court by 1 hour and 15 minutes after the agreed start time.
- e. Home clubs should provide light refreshments.
- f. Winter League end of season tournament
 - i. Teams must decide before the second week of January of each year whether they wish to be included in the Knock Out Tournament and advise the organiser accordingly.
 - ii. In the event of an uneven number of teams entering a bye situation will be operated.
 - iii. Only members who have played in two or more matches are eligible to play in the tournament match rounds and final.
 - iv. The cost of balls to be shared equally by both teams in tournament matches
 - v. When and if, playing a Plate Tournament any team conceding in the first

round of the tournament will forfeit going through to the tournaments ensuing rounds.

Kevin Folger commented that the conceding of rubbers should mirror the Summer League.

Beauchief Tennis Club raised concern that they couldn't mix their teams as they have previously done in the Winter League. It was agreed The Rule on Merit to be caveated on the Winter League which will be part of the registration paperwork when invitations are sent out this year. A new rule will be proposed at the 2018 AGM.

2. Bye Law. 15d – Inclement weather

Current wording:

15d) Completion of abandoned match

(i) If at the time of abandonment one team has scored sufficient rubbers to win the match, that score shall be the final match score.

(ii) If at the time of abandonment neither team has scored a sufficient number of rubbers to win, the match shall be replayed in its entirety and the same provisions apply as if the match has been postponed before the match commenced.

It currently applies really only to a 3 couple match.

There could be a situation where in a 2 couple match as follows:

In the 1st round. Team A wins 2-0 in rubbers and 4-0 in sets

In the 2nd round. Team A had won 1 set when the match had to be abandoned.

As the bye law stands, the match has to be replayed because one team had not scored sufficient rubbers to win. However, Team B could not win since from that position they could not score sufficient sets even if they won both 2nd round matches.

The following wording is proposed and would accommodate both 2 & 3 couple leagues.

15(i) If at the time of abandonment ONE TEAM HAS REACHED A WINNING SCORE, that score shall be the final match score.

15(ii) If a winning score has not been reached, the match shall be replayed in its entirety.

The proposal was carried unanimously

3. Bye –law 21. Court surface

Current wording:

In the event of the home club having more than one type of court surface they shall have the right to specify which courts will be used, but each of the visiting pairs must be allowed to play all their rubbers on the same court. However, in the event of inclement weather after a match has commenced, courts of a different type may be used by mutual agreement of the two captains.

Proposal is to add a sentence to say:

Where more than one type of surface is to be used for the match it shall be the visiting team that selects which surface shall be used for its couples.

The proposal was carried unanimously

4. Bye law 22 b) and 24 start time of matches in Men's, Ladies, Mixed and Men's Late Summer Leagues

Suggested change to Bye law 22b – proposed by Moorgate Tennis Club

Current wording:

All Men's and Saturday mixed matches to be played on Saturdays shall commence at 2:00 p.m. Any couple not on court to play by 2:15 p.m. will forfeit the first set. The first rubber to be conceded if not on court ready to play by 2.45 p.m., the second rubber at 3:15 p.m. and the third rubber at 3:45 p.m. Matches shall comprise two sets (tie break to 7 at 6 all). In the event of the rubber standing at one set all a tie break to 10 (2 clear points) shall be played to decide the rubber. This tie break is to be treated as a new set but recorded as ONE game on the scorecard (**NB the number of sets for the rubber should be shown as 1 -1**). The Official LTA Tie Break shall be played in all sets at 6 all.

Proposed wording:

All Men's and Saturday Mixed Matches to be played on Saturdays, shall commence at 2:00 p.m. or earlier, if agreed by both teams. Any couple not on court and ready to play, 15 minutes after the agreed start time, will forfeit the first set. The first rubber will be conceded, if not on court and ready to play, 45 minutes after the agreed start time. The second rubber will be conceded, 75 minutes after the agreed start time, if not on court and ready to play. All matches to comprise best of three sets. The official LTA Tie Break shall be played in all sets at 6-all. If rubbers are level at the completion of the match then sets won will be counted to decide the winning team. If sets won are also equal then games won will be counted. If games won are equal the match shall be declared a draw.

Bye law 24 – Men's Late Summer League

Current wording:

Matches shall be played on Saturdays with a 2:00 p.m. start. Any couple not on court to play by 2:15 p.m. will forfeit the first set. The first rubber to be conceded if not on court to play by 2.45 p.m. The second rubber to be conceded at 3.15 p.m. All matches to comprise best of three sets. The official LTA Tie Break shall be played in all sets at 6-all. If rubbers are level at the completion of the match then sets won will be counted to decide the winning team. If sets won are also equal then games won will be counted. If games won are equal the match shall be declared a draw.

Proposed wording:

Matches shall be played on Saturdays with a 2:00 p.m. start, or earlier, if agreed by both teams. Any couple not on court to play, 15 minutes after the agreed start time, will forfeit the first set. The first rubber will be conceded, if not on court and ready to play, 45 minutes after the agreed start time. The second rubber will be conceded, 75 minutes after the agreed start time, if not on court and ready to play. All matches to comprise best of three sets. The official LTA Tie Break shall be played in all sets at 6-all. If rubbers are level at the completion of the match then sets won will be counted to decide the winning team. If sets won are also equal then games won will be counted. If games won are equal the match shall be declared a draw.

The proposal was carried unanimously

5. Bye law 16 Results of matches

Current wording:

In the first instance the results of all midweek matches to be sent electronically, by both participating clubs, to the appropriate League Secretary no later than the Friday following these matches. In the first instance the results of all weekend matches to be

sent electronically, by both participating clubs, to the appropriate League Secretary no later than the Monday following these matches. If the full result card has not been sent electronically the card, with both the forename and surname of each player, and the rubbers, sets and games scored by each pair, must be forwarded to the appropriate League Secretary within five days of it being played by the captain or the secretary of the home club concerned. Where a match is for any reason not played, other than a concession, the appropriate League Secretary must be informed within seven days by the captain or secretary of the home club concerned. Where a match has been conceded, the team claiming the match should forward, within seven days, a scorecard showing the names of the players who would have played had the match not been conceded, and those players shall then be deemed to have played for the purpose of Bye-law 13. Any club failing to observe this rule shall be fined £5 on each occasion.

Proposed wording:

- a) Match results will be uploaded by clubs on to the website in accordance with guidance which will be issued separately. The Home team will be responsible for entering the required details and scores and once this has been done, it will be the responsibility of the Away team to validate the score. On validation, the match result will appear on the website. The guidance issued to clubs will deal with the process for concessions.
- b) In addition to the above, the results of all matches are to be sent electronically, by both participating clubs, to the League Secretary by:
 - no later than the Friday following a midweek match and
 - no later than the Monday following a weekend match.
- c) If the full result card has not been sent electronically the card, with both the forename and surname of each player, and the rubbers, sets and games scored by each pair, must be forwarded to the appropriate League Secretary within five days of it being played by the captain or the secretary of the home club concerned. Where a match is for any reason not played, other than a concession, the appropriate League Secretary must be informed within seven days by the captain or secretary of the home club concerned. Where a match has been conceded, the team claiming the match should forward, within seven days, a scorecard showing the names of the players who would have played had the match not been conceded, and those players shall then be deemed to have played for the purpose of Bye-law 13. Any club failing to observe this rule shall be fined £5 on each occasion.

Clare Wood commented that ladies matches ran late and felt the current timescale is a bit tight as a Thursday match result should strictly be done no later than the day after the match. Kevin Folger commented that there has been a rule of thumb that the results can be inputted within 6 days and the rule as it currently reads was not being enforced.

16b to be changed to only the home club to send the scorecard electronically to the League Secretary.

The proposal was carried unanimously following the amendments.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm
