



Minutes of the Council Meeting

Tuesday 15th October 2019
Sheffield Transport Sports Club, Meadowhead

Present:

President – John McGleave
Members of the Management Committee
Members of affiliated clubs

1. Opening remarks by the President of the Association – John McGleave

John welcomed everyone and then passed on the sad news that Julia Lobo had passed away. Julia was an active Doncaster member and also a committee member and past President of the S & D.

John then introduced Tim Holmes, who is the President elect and will take up office at the AGM, in February 2020.

2. Apologies for absence

Martin Gilmour

3. Minutes of Council Meeting held on 12th February 2019

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 12th February 2019 were formally approved.

4. Matters arising

No matters arising.

5. Reports on 2019 season

1. Senior League reports – Kevin Beaton

Summer Leagues

These leagues have been completed now and the tables are available for everyone to view on the website. A review of the dates of the league results will show that there has been much disruption due to poor weather this year and that many matches have had to be re-arranged.

There was a single match in the Men's Division 2 that was not able to be re-arranged, Stocksbridge A vs Doncaster B, but this match did not impact on promotion or relegation. There was also a single match in the Midweek Mixed Division 1 that was not played due to the light, D&T B vs Eccelsall. At the time, this did not impact on

promotion and relegation. However, with the suggested proposals for the Midweek Mixed leagues there could be an impact. Finally, there is currently one match, in the Ladies Late Summer Division 2, where there is a result still to be entered that will impact on promotion from the division. Bradfield were scheduled to play Abbeydale B on 10 October, and I am still awaiting a result card for this match. The winners of this match will be promoted to Division 1 next season.

There were three team withdrawals after the league fixtures had been published:

Abbeydale A withdrew from the Men's Division 1. This means that, although two teams will be promoted from each league as usual, only one team will be relegated from each division this year.

Queens Park withdrew from the Men's Late Summer Division 2. This means that, although two teams will be promoted from division 3, only one team will be relegated from division 2 this year.

Thorncliffe B withdrew from Ladies Division 3. This means that, although two teams will be promoted from division 4 and 5, there will only be one team relegated from Division 3 and 4 this year.

The problem with late cards that I highlighted last year has continued this year and there were 85 occasions that I had to ask for cards to be sent after the date they were due. The only person this can possibly please is Kay as Treasurer.

A bigger concern for me is the number of teams that are conceding matches and I consider that this is now impacting the integrity of the leagues. There were 58 matches conceded last season in all the summer leagues. Regarding my comment on the integrity of the league I will use the example of the last scheduled matches in the Saturday Mixed League. At this time the bottom three teams in Division 2 all had 2 points. On the day one of these three teams were awarded a walk over. This was a massive advantage in the statistics that the other teams could not hope to overcome.

Rowlinson Cup

This tournament did not run this year.

Winter Leagues

The fixtures started last weekend for the 2019/20 season.

There were not enough entries to run the Sunday Winter League this year but there now 5 divisions in the Saturday League. The fixture are scheduled to run through until Saturday 25 January 2020 in Divisions 1 to 3 and until Saturday 1 February 2020 in divisions 4 and 5.

2. Junior League report – Mark Busby

The full season ran from 5 May to 28 July, we have suffered this year with a few un-played fixtures. I appreciate the demands on junior players is high and I appreciate everyone's efforts to arrange and play the matches.

There have been no adverse comments about behaviour which is good. And reports of some great matches taking place.

Thanks go to the junior organisers, especially the parents who took on this role, for

their work and commitment throughout the season.
The winners and runners up of the leagues were as follows:

	Winners	Runners-Up
18&U.	Doncaster	Grove
15&U Div 1	Moorgate A	Hallamshire A
15&U Div 2.	Beauchief A	Hallam Grange A
15&U Div 3.	Thorncliffe	Grove
12&U.Div 1.	Beauchief	Hallamshire
12&U Div 2.	Brentwood	Thorncliffe

Also the Junior Winter league will commence this weekend with 20 teams entered in the two categories 14U & 16U.

Mini League

Mini league took place over the summer with 12 Clubs and 27 teams taking part. I would like to give a big thank you to Jo Muscroft for her help in formulating the fixtures and arranging the red events. I couldn't have got the mini league up and running without her.

	Winners	Runners-Up
Red	Graves	Hallamshire
Orange Div 1	Graves A	Barnsley
Orange Div 2.	Graves B	Wheatley Hills
Green Div 1	Graves	Hallamshire
Green Div 2.	Wheatley Hills	Moorgate

The winter Mini league has just commenced with 27 teams entered across the Red, Orange and Green categories, which is great news.

There is going to be a Mini & Junior Presentation Evening at Beauchief Tennis Club in November with the date to be confirmed shortly.

3. Senior Tournament – Kevin Folger

Kevin outlined the following:

- Significant changes this year with increased sponsorship and prize money
- 100 entries with a good spread of entries from outside the district
- Good communication
- Results on the LTA Tournament website a success
- Great weather throughout the tournament
- Lots of competitive matches
- Finals day was outside and completed on Saturday
- Great press coverage – Grassroots and Sheffield Star
- Good feedback from players throughout the week and the LTA survey

Kevin also thanked Trevor Ward in his organising of the Tournament Committee, Bob Lamb for the trophies, Kay for organising the bank transfers, all the Tournament Committee, Hallamshire TC and all the clubs that provided courts during the week.

2020 Senior Tournament

- The dates of the tournament are 21st to 28th June 20.
- Looking for more sponsors
- Online entries again
- Continue to promote through Yorkshire news letters, S&D Website, Clubs

Ambassadors and websites

It will be the Centenary Year of the tournament next year and we are looking for ideas to make it a special event. Any suggestions would be very welcomed.

Chris Muscroft asked about the feedback from the Clubs with regard to the tournament. Trevor outlined the feedback received:

- Finals day went well
- Ladies found 6pm difficult
- Enjoyable week
- Get ladies onto the Tournament Committee

4. Junior Tournament – Sue Pugh

The 2019 Sheffield and District Junior Tournament held at Beauchief and Ecclesall Tennis Clubs, and sponsored by Penny Jameel of Deuce UK (all of who we would like to thank for their continued support), took place between Monday 29 July and Friday 2 August. This was a week later than usual as the Sheffield schools were not due to break up until the Thursday, this could have been why the numbers of players entering were slightly down on last year, but with an increase of the actual events entered, on the whole the tournament was not affected.

What could have upset things was the weather with thundery showers forecast for most of the week. As it was, the Monday and Friday stayed dry and it was just Tuesday where the players were on and off the courts as the rain came down in heavy bursts. The youngsters were amazing and continued to play for as long as possible despite getting soaked to the skin. There was a slight delay in proceedings due to the weather and we would like to thank Graves Health and Sports Centre and Abbeydale Tennis Club who once again offered us the use of their indoor courts.

In the older age groups we saw many of the previous finalist winning with Josh Bows retaining the 18 and 16&U boys singles, Josh also achieved the outstanding player award. Ellen Plaskitt once again won the 18&U girls singles and also the doubles with her partner of last year Eleanor Lake. The 18&U boys doubles was won by Bailey Cole and Reuben Newman-Billington, with Josh Bows and Emily Busby taking the 18&U mixed. Emily was also successful in the 16&U girls singles. The other two names which came up from last year were Dan Mckenning and Kate Prigmore, Dan showed great strength in once again winning the 10&U boys singles in a closely fought final against Fred Cross, who's talent didn't go unnoticed as we presented him with the best newcomer trophy. Kate moved up a category winning the 14&U girls singles. And this is where any similarities ended, Lydia Drabble had a successful tournament winning the 14&U mixed with Jamie Hodgkinson and the 14&U girls with Eleanor Walker. The 14&U boys events were won by Aaron Garner in the singles and Will Stringer and Tom Everest- Wilcock in the doubles. Tom also won the 12&U boys with Molly Abraham winning the 12&U girls. Eliza Bakhtiar came first in the 10&U girls, the 9&U girls and boys categories were won by Isla Hoyland and Gao Roberts.

Our referee Fiona Fellows once again ran the tournament ensuring everyone got plenty of tennis. Thanks to all our volunteers who helped during the week, the tournament couldn't run without them, more so for the 9 and 10&U events and finals day where each match is overseen on court. Special thanks to Jane Willis and Tom Buchan who helped on the desk supporting Fiona in keeping things in order. Our president John was involved every day helping out at both venues and once again did a grand job presenting the trophies.

All the results are available at on the LTA website

<https://www3.lta.org.uk/Competitions/Event/?ctn=1-I4PVXVH&evt=1-I4PW4SE>

5. Yorkshire LTA – Chris Day

Chris outlined the following:

- Initial period for Advantage Yorkshire Loans & grants is coming to an end
- County Championships was a success 440 entries
- Regional Development Centre at John Charles Leeds has been set up
- Yorkshire County Cup teams are 2nd in County Cup Race
- Want more clubs to support Yorkshire League
- Want all districts to ensure all clubs are registered with the LTA
- LTA registration to be completed by November
- LTA forum 21st November at Graves TC
- LTA Awards open for entries – there were many Sheffield winners last year

6. General Secretary – Mark Busby

There have been five committee meetings since the AGM with a further one planned for November and these involve dealing with a wide range of issues.

The administration for the two coaching grant scheme “windows” has again been done by Jessica Redfearn.

- in September - 3 application for Coach and 1 for Club Coaching for this September
- Reminder that scheme is open to Level 3 courses.

As voted on at the AGM we continue with another 2 year sponsorship deal Slazenger/Dunlop. I would like to thank all clubs that purchased Slazenger or Dunlop balls through Duece, but I must remind all clubs that the official ball of the league is the Slazenger Hydroguard and this must be used in all league matches.

Thanks to Kevin and the Tournament Committee for the organising of the Senior Tournament. Thanks also from the Committee go to Hallamshire for allowing the Association to hold the annual tournament there, and to the number of clubs who offered the use of their courts for the senior tournament.

Thanks to Sue, Fay and team for their hard work in organising the Junior Tournament. Also thanks to Beachief and Ecclesall for hosting the events.

Unfortunately, the Sunday Winter League was not able to be run this year due to the number of entries.

I have dealt with the usual number of general enquiries from club secretaries and others through the website enquiries or direct to me.

Thank you to all club secs, coaches, captains and parent helpers for their hard work.

6. 2020 Season

1. League formats (to be finalised at February 2020 meeting)

John outlined the proposals for a change to the Mid-week Mixed League as the feeling was that the season was too long. This was debated and clubs were invited to put forward any proposals which would be voted on at the AGM.

2. Important dates

Please let the committee know of any important dates.

3. Suggested alterations to rules and bye-laws for 2020

John outlined the rule change proposal which was put forward with regard to the withdrawal of teams. Kevin Folger asked how many 2 pair matches was a contributing factor in the conceded matches. Kevin Beaton said it was not the case and it was not just the bottom teams that were conceding. The rule change was to clarify the which team would drop out of the league when a club requested a team withdrawal.

7 Annual Dinner 2019

The 2019 dinner will be on the 15th November 2019 at Sheffield United Platinum Suite.

Any clubs not paid to let Jess have the money.

Also any dietary requirements to let Jess know.

8 Any other business

John thanked Kevin Beaton for his service as League Secretary and his professionalism to counter his own gung-ho approach. Kevin is stepping down due to personal circumstances and will be severely missed.

John also reiterated the venue registration needs to be completed and Paul Sheard would be able to answer any queries.

The issue of personal details of the club contacts on the website was discussed. There was an issue with details being used to contact someone. It was asked if club contact details can be password protected and can we make it more difficult to get access. Jess to look into it.

Sue Pugh asked if the website has the option to show postponed match dates. Jess to look into this.

The meeting closed at 8.41pm.
