



Minutes of the Council Meeting

Tuesday 13th October 2020
Held on Zoom

Present:

President – Tim Holmes
Members of the Management Committee
Members of affiliated clubs

1. Opening remarks by the President of the Association – Tim Holmes

Tim welcomed everyone to this first virtual council meeting. Tim thanked the committee for their commitment to ensure that there is as much tennis matches as possible in this difficult time. Also special thanks to Fay who worked hard to get the temporary leagues up and running.

2. Apologies for absence

Paul Sheard
Trevor Ward

3. Minutes of Council Meeting held on 11th February 2020

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 11th February 2020 were formally approved.

4. Matters arising

No matters arising.

5. Reports on 2020 season

1. Senior League reports – Fay Buchan

As most of you are aware, I started as league secretary in February this year and, after creating all the fixtures for the summer and late summer leagues, which were then cancelled, the new leagues started in August.

I have looked back at past reports from league secretaries and there seems to be a recurring theme of late or missing scorecards; basic errors entering information onto the scorecards followed by errors entering the results onto the website. There is also an issue regarding procedures for matches conceded, both with the submission of scorecards and entering the results on the website as well as arranging fixtures which have been called off due to bad weather.

All this information is already on the S&D website under rules and bye-laws, but the committee is working on a help sheet for match day responsibilities, more information on the accurate completion of the scorecard and entering the results on the website.

It is the responsibility of all clubs to ensure that the processes are followed carefully and completely.

There have been forty-eight late scorecards, one hundred and eighteen individual errors on scorecards, sixty-two errors entering the information into the website and twenty-eight delays in confirming the information on the website. There have been thirteen discrepancies raised (as well as one in error). This would suggest that the information is not always checked before the confirmation button is pressed. Fourteen matches have been conceded and one team withdrew after the start of the leagues.

If any clubs would like to know their errors so far, please feel free to contact me at results@sdlta.org.uk.

2. Junior League report – Mark Busby

Unfortunately, the Mini and Junior Winter League was not able to be finished and we have awarded the leagues winners on the results at the time.

14u Div 1 – Doncaster

14u Div 2 – Wheatley Hills

16u - Doncaster & Moorgate (Too close to call)

We have refrained from recommencing a Mini and Junior League due to the ongoing situation and the fact that matches involve players and parents. We will continue to monitor the situation and hope to be able to get matches for the Mini's and Juniors for the summer season.

3. Yorkshire LTA – Martin Gilmour / Jess Redfearn

Martin outlined the following:

- Venue registration – will be staggered starting in October with the notification sent to each venue. Payment this year is required by debit/credit card.
- LTA 2021 Tennis Awards has been launched, please make nominations by the 15th November.
- Tramlines is now online – it is available to be sent to your email if you register.
- Yorkshire AGM will be held on Monday 7th December on Zoom.

4. General Secretary – Mark Busby

The following are the main points I wish to mention:

- There have been six 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.
 - 3 applications for Coaching grants for this September
 - Reminder that scheme is open to Level 1 to 3 courses.

- We are coming to the end of the current 2 year sponsorship deal with Slazenger/Dunlop. I would like to thank all clubs that purchased Slazenger or Dunlop balls through Duece, and continue to do so.
- Unfortunately, we had to cancel the Senior Tournament and Junior Tournament this year. But thanks to Kevin and the Senior Tournament Committee and Fay, Sue and Fiona the Junior Tournament Committee for their continued hard work in preparing for these events. I hope next year we will be in a better position to be able to run these events.
- We also took the early decision to cancel the November Awards Evening before any costs were incurred.
- With regard to the trophies, I will be contacting clubs shortly to request the return of the trophies for the leagues, Senior Tournament and Junior Tournament.
- Following on from the success of the temporary late summer leagues, we will be organising an abridged Winter League which depending on entries will start in January. I will be sending out requests for entries shortly.
- I would like to highlight the great website we have and would encourage all to regularly view it. All news and announcements are put on the website and our other social media channels. Please can clubs make sure all captains details are up to date and if clubs have news stories, they would like to share please let us know.

Thank you to all club secretaries, coaches, captains and parent helpers for their hard work in these difficult times.

6. 2020 Season

1. League formats (to be finalised at February 2021 meeting)

Thank you for the responses to the survey which was sent out.

There were 2 areas that received a large majority in favour and these were:

1. Earlier start time for Saturday Men's and Mixed fixtures. Therefore, we will be proposing a change to the Byelaw 22b to reflect this which will be presented at the AGM to be voted on.
2. The change to 2 pairs for the Ladies League Division 3 downwards. Incorporated into this will be the normal deuces for these matches and the opportunity for later start times. We are therefore going to propose this change to Byelaw 22c which will be sent out shortly. This will need to be voted on at a Special General Meeting, which will be called in November, date to be confirmed.

All other leagues are to remain the same as there was no clear majority from the survey to suggest clubs wanted them to change.

Therefore, we will be sending out the request for entries for the summer season 2021 in December as normal. We are aware the current situation has meant clubs may want to review the number of teams that they have entered previously.

2. Important dates

Please let the committee know of any important dates.

3. Suggested alterations to rules and bye-laws for 2021

The Management Committee propose the following rule change for the meeting to consider and put forward to the AGM:

Proposed New Bye-law 16. Results of matches

Current 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 the home club, to the League Secretary within one week of the fixture.
- 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 seven 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 the home team on to the website **within THREE days of the match. All results must be uploaded to the Sheffield and District website by the HOME team. Each club will be issued with login details to the following link: www.sdlta.org.uk/enter-results. The HOME team to complete all the fields for the match played and press the save button. It is then the responsibility of the AWAY team to validate the score within SEVEN days of the match. On validation, the match result will appear on the website. If the result has been entered but a mistake has been made, the AWAY team will need to raise a dispute rather than confirming the result as correct. Any club failing to observe this rule shall be fined £5 on each occasion.**
- b) In addition to the above, a clear copy of the scorecard is to be sent electronically, by the HOME club to the League Secretary **using the email results@sdlta.org.uk, within THREE days of the match. Any club failing to observe this rule shall be fined £5 on each occasion.**
- c) **The scorecard should be completed with the League, Division, Date, Home club, Away club, forename and surname of each player, the winner of each rubber, the result scores (with the home team scores first) and the total rubbers, sets and games. Both team captains are to check that the card is correct and signed as confirmation. The HOME team is responsible for the filling out of the scorecard and any failings to the above shall be fined £5 on each occasion.**
- d) **Where a match has been conceded, the team awarded the match should forward, within THREE days, the names of the players who would have played to the**

League Secretary using the email results@sdltta.org.uk. These players shall then be deemed to have played for the purpose of Bye-law 13.

Claire Wood, Stocksbridge TC, highlighted that some players might find the revised time difficult.

7 Any other business

Bob Buxton, Beauchief TC, asked if the clubs will be penalised for any withdrawals due to Covid for the summer season, which entries are requested for in December. Mark confirmed that clubs would not be penalised in this scenario.

Martin McCarthy, Doncaster TC, apologised to Fay for their scorecard errors. He also raised the LTA registration process is particularly painful and long winded. Has this been fed back to the LTA? Jess confirmed that the LTA is aware of the issue. John McGleave highlighted that you can go in and edit it and then save it prior to submission.

Martina Daly, Rustlings TC, asked if there is a different risk assessment available? Jess said there was a risk assessment with COVID on it.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.
