



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 20th February 2024
at Lees Hall Golf Club, Hemsworth Road, Sheffield, S8 8LL

1. Opening remarks of the President

John Clephan opened the meeting and welcomed everyone and thanked all present and the committee for their contribution to the leagues.

2. Apologies

Chris Gilmour (Millhouses)
Louise Rutherford (Bradfield)

3. Minutes of the AGM held on 7th February 2023

The minutes for the AGM held on 7th February 2023 were formally approved.

4. Matters arising from the 2023 AGM

No matters arising.

5. Safeguarding

No safeguarding issues raised.

The region is covered by Hannah Knox, who is the LTA Northern Region Safeguarding Officer if you need any advice or support. We can pass on her details if clubs require it.

6. Report of General Secretary

The General Secretary Mark Busby, reported the following points:

- I would like to thank John McGleave, Jess Redfearn and Paul Sheard for their valued contribution to the Committee and league. They have all decided to step down from the committee and they will be missed. If anyone knows anyone who would like to join the committee, please let me know.
- There have been seven committee meetings plus AGM and Council Meeting.
- The coaching grant scheme has been successful again this year with 8 applications in October which include grants for Level 1 & 2 courses.
- We are continuing our sponsorship with Slazenger/Dunlop for next season, with it being the last year of the 3 year agreement. I would like to thank all clubs that purchased the AO Dunlop balls through Deuce. Further update on the balls will be discussed later in the council meeting.

- Sue and Fay organised the Junior Tournament, which was a great success, also thanks to Beauchief and Eccelsall for hosting the events. It is Sue and Fay's last time as organisers and I would like to thank them for the great job they have done over the years to make this a wonderful event they will be missed.
- The Senior Tournament was also a great success this year in the Centenary event, especially the lady's day. Thanks go to Trevor and the Senior Tournament Committee and special thanks to referee Steve Holmes. Also, thanks to Hallamshire, Beauchief and all clubs that volunteered their courts for the event. Next year event will be on 9th June to 15th June 2023.
- We have been using the LTA Software for the Winter League and will continue to use this for the summer leagues.
- Lastly, I would like to thank all club secs, coaches, team captains and parent helpers for all their hard work this year.

7. **Report of Treasurer and presentation of accounts for the year to 31st December 2023**

Kay Rollings presented the Accounts, with the following points:

Last year when I presented the accounts, we had made a significant surplus and had a large balance in the bank. We exist to support tennis in Sheffield and surrounding areas, not to make a profit, so this year we have actively tried to reduce the costs we pass on to clubs, as well as spending some of our funds on supporting local tennis, and I am delighted to say we have made a loss!

You can see from the table on the left that the fees per team and club are a lot less than last year. We halved the team fees and the affiliation fees. The fines are also a lot less in 2023.

We had a slight change in process this year, usually I send out invoices in April, but because we delayed collecting team information for the late summer leagues in July, the invoicing was delayed to July too.

The Dinner usually makes a small profit, but this year made a loss. The team had put a lot of effort into making it a night to remember including games and entertainment which increased the cost. We donated £500 to the Cavendish Cancer Care Charity

The reduction in income from adverts is due to the delayed receipt of the £650 from Dunlop (We receive £1300 in total paid in 2 instalments).

Costs of the tournaments are higher this year. The adult tournament incorporated a tournament for the visually impaired, and although we received some sponsorship from the LTA for this, it didn't offset the increased court hire and trophy costs. We do have some medals etc left over which will offset the costs in future years.

We have to use Stripe software for our tournaments as it is the LTA preferred system. I'm not convinced it's the best on the market, it's expensive, and some people found it difficult to use, but it does make it easier for the tournament administrators to check payments, and when people were struggling, we made exceptions and they paid directly to the bank account.

The gratuities reflect the gift to Bob when he stood down from the committee last February, and the gift to Tim when he stood down as President.

We supported local tennis by sponsoring the Sheffield NPL team with a grant of £150. This team is made up of the top players in Sheffield and the entry fee is £125, plus there are additional costs of travel etc.

We have had to spend more on engraving than usual as we have had more trophies, but also because we no longer get the discounted rates via Bob!

The increase in Website fees is due to an issue where one of the leagues was completely deleted by accident, and we needed to call the experts in to sort it out

Admin fees are higher than usual as we had to pay the LTA to set up our leagues on their website.

We also paid £1000 to Ben Howarth for his work on the Tennis Futures project which includes a Tennis Leaders course for our young players, and a competition organisers course.

We end the year with a healthy £27500 in the bank. £750 of this is the defibrillator fund. As yet, no clubs have made a claim against this reserve and I believe that all of the clubs have access to a defibrillator, so I propose to merge this into the main accounts at the end of 2024 season.

A few thanks... to Malcolm our auditor who has audited the accounts for over 40 years. Note that the accounts have been audited... it's just that I'd already printed some copies before I got the originals back.. Anyone who would like a signed copy, please let me know.

To all the clubs who paid promptly, and to the people who ran the tournaments and organised the dinner for their stewardship.

Cheryl, Thorncliffe TC, raised the points that fines are down but they still represent 33% of the income, why are fines needed to run the league? Fay responded that fines are needed as a deterrent to ensure information is entered in correctly on the website and on the cards.

Jane, Graves TC, asked if the committee has reduced the number of cards they check. Fay confirmed that she had reduced the number checked.

Suggested improvement in the 2 pair scorecard to help with filling in the card. It was agreed to look into this.

John Clephan outlined how the committee propose to reinvest surplus funds. This year we are looking to support more junior playing matches and hope to achieve this by supporting and developing juniors to enable them to organise tournaments and provide them equipment. This will hopefully generate ongoing activity for junior competitive tennis.

8. Election of Officers

Tim Holmes announced that Bob Lamb was standing down from the committee:

The Officers and committee were elected in accordance with the constitution, the following Committee Members are willing to be elected again.

President:	John Clephan (Grove)
General Secretary:	Mark Busby (Moorgate)
Deputy Secretary:	Todd Sweeney (Moorgate)
Treasurer:	Kay Rollings (Grove)
Auditor	Malcolm Lindley

Website co-ordinator:	Todd Sweeney (Moorgate)
League Secretary:	Fay Buchan (Graves)
Deputy League Secretary:	Vacant
Past President	Tim Holmes (Abbeydale)
Sheffield YLTA representative	Martin Gilmour (Ecclesall)
Elected member	Sarah Everest

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

9. Subscriptions for 2024

The Treasurer proposed:

- £5 affiliation fee
- £5 team fee

The proposal was carried unanimously.

10. Applications for membership/withdrawal

No new applications for membership or withdrawals.

11. Changes to Rules/Bye-Laws

The following rule changes were proposed by the management committee and accepted.

1. Proposed New Rule 10. Championship trophies

Current Wording:

The team winning the championship in each division shall be awarded the Championship Trophy of that division, to be held by such team in trust and returned at or before the October Council Meeting. Failure to do so will result in a fine of £5 per trophy.

Proposed Wording:

The team winning the championship in each division shall be awarded the Championship Trophy of that division, to be held by such team in trust and returned **by the 1st of October**. Failure to do so will result in a fine of £5 per trophy.

2. Proposed New Rule 22. Men's, Ladies' and Saturday mixed matches

Current Wording:

b) 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. 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.

c) All Ladies' matches shall consist of four rubbers - doubles (i.e. a team of two pairs each plays two rubbers). Matches shall be played on Thursdays and will commence at 6:00 p.m (with prior communication some flexibility is allowed for teams having to travel long distance). Any couple not on court ready to play by 15 minutes from the start time will forfeit the first set, the second set of the first rubber to be conceded if not on court and ready to play by 45 minutes from the start time. The second rubber to be conceded if not on court ready to play by 75 minutes from the start time. Rubbers will consist of two sets to be played to 6 games. Where the score gets to 6-6, the official LTA seven point tie-break shall be played to decide the winner of the set. If a deciding set needs to be played this should be a champions tie-break (i.e. to 10). This deciding tie-break shall be recorded as a game on the scorecard and counted as a game when entering on the website. Normal

deuce will be played throughout. The winner of the match will be decided by firstly, rubbers won, then sets won and then games won.

Proposed Wording:

b) 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. 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 **and recorded as a set** on the scorecard. The Official LTA Tie Break shall be played in all sets at 6 all.

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3. Proposed New Rule 23. Midweek Mixed and Late Summer Ladies matches

Current Wording:

a) All matches shall consist of four rubbers - doubles (i.e. each pair plays two rubbers). The captain of each team shall, before the match commences, provide a list of each pair of doubles players (constituting a team) in what he honestly believes the order of playing merit, for the first round. If the matches have started no substitutes shall be allowed for players who have already taken part in a match. All Midweek Mixed matches to be played on Tuesdays shall commence at 6:00 p.m. All Late Summer Ladies League matches to be played on a Thursday shall commence at 6:00 p.m. 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. Both Midweek Mixed and Late Summer Ladies leagues 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. 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. Home Clubs must provide light refreshments for all midweek matches.

Proposed Wording:

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4. Proposed New Rule 26. Winter League

Current Wording:

b. Matches shall comprise of two sets (Tie break to 7 at 6-6), with a Men's and Ladies doubles followed by two mixed doubles, with a 10-point tie break to be played to decide the rubber if sets stand at 1-1. This tie break is to be treated as a set, but recorded on the scorecard as one game.

Proposed Wording:

b. Matches shall comprise of two sets (Tie break to 7 at 6-6), with a Men's and Ladies doubles followed by two mixed doubles, with a 10-point tie break to be played to decide the rubber if sets stand at 1-1. **This tie break is to be treated as a new set and recorded as a set on the scorecard.**

All the proposals were carried by the majority.

The meeting closed at 20:19 pm

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