

**Minutes for Exeter and District Tennis League AGM held on Zoom
on Wednesday, 2nd February 2022 at 7.00 pm**

1. Apologies and attendees – see Annex 4

2. Minutes of AGM on Tuesday 4th February 2020

Approved unanimously – no matters arising

3. Roll of honour – see Annex 3

Clubs will get trophies end March/April 2022. Congratulations to winners.

4. Chairman's report – see Annex 5

Circulated with Agenda. Covered last two years. No questions.

5. Treasurer's report – accounts and fees form attached

The proposal is that entry fees will be £8 for summer league, £5 for winter.

Treasurer circulated accounts with summary. No questions. Accounts and proposed fees accepted unanimously. Thank you to Catriona.

6. Match Secretary's report – see Annex 7

Report circulated with agenda. Shame about Ottery pulling out of league. Welcome back to Eric and team at Tunnels. Usual request for scorecards on white background. Chairman thanked Maureen for all her hard work.

7. Composition of divisions for summer 2022

Match Secretary had sent out proposed divisions. 2 up 2 down per rules. Fitting in 6 new men's teams and 1 ladies, plus teams returning after 2021.

In the mens leagues – Teignmouth requested to withdraw their A team due to loss of players. After discussion including the precedent of Exmouth Ladies it was agreed that this was acceptable as long as the 3 A team players from last year who were unable to play were named to Maureen and didn't play this season. Seaton A were promoted from Division 2 to take their place and even up the divisions.

Dawlish, with 2 teams in Division 5, asked for their B team to be reinstated into Division 4. There was much sympathy for their position and after discussion this was approved.

At this point it was agreed that for this year only – “we would tear up the rule book” and allow changes not normally allowed but next year we would revert to following the rule book to the letter.

Tunnels are re-joining the league and as such need to apply for re-admittance. This was approved unanimously.

Budleigh then noted they had 2 teams in Division 7 and could they move one into Division 8. This was agreed with Tiverton B moving up into Division 7.

In the ladies leagues - Victoria Park had 2 teams in Division 2 and asked for their B team to move into Division 3. This was approved. Teign Valley A agreed at the meeting to move into Division 2 to fill the gap. (post-meeting note – Teign Valley have withdrawn their approval –EGCC B have agreed to move up to Division 2) .

All the changes were approved unanimously. The chair thanked everyone for their contributions and understanding.

8. Devon LTA report– see Annex5

There is some money for loans for improvements, though not re-surfacing. Grants for coaching courses Level 1 – 3.. Grant funds are available for help with purchasing de-fibrulator. 3 people in last 6 weeks have needed them to be used. Contact Andy Malcolm first for details.

9. Election of Officers and Committee

A request for new blood on the committee was made but no takers yet. Current committee happy to stand again but one will be standing down next year. Committee unanimously re-elected en-bloc. See Annex 6 for list of committee members.

10. Proposals for rule changes – proposed change is highlighted.

Rule 29 - Evening matches shall normally commence at 6.30 pm and all players shall be in attendance at that time. Weekend matches should start no earlier than 10am. However matches may commence at a different time by agreement of both teams,

After discussion this was agreed unanimously.

11. Suggested treatment of Covid related player availability. – committee proposal is in Annex 2(A)

This suggestion was vigorously debated with much concern about point 2 and related possible GDPR problems. Eventually it was suggested that we should be trying to get back to normal and as such postponements should only be allowed due to bad weather. This was agreed unanimously.

It was noted that this decision should be communicated to all team captains.

12. Suggested provision of teas this summer season – committee proposal is below

Teas: the two captains should discuss arrangements before the match. There is no obligation for the home team to provide refreshments this summer.

If no discussion between captains, tea need not be supplied but can be if you wish to. This was accepted unanimously

13. Proposal for some results to be input to WTN system – see Annex 1

This was discussed and it was agreed that any results entered would be done as if Mens divisions 1 and 2 were combined. Clubs do not have to participate but at least 7 teams suggested they would participate. Results can only be entered if all 4 players in a rubber agree..Fees for the system will be covered by the participating teams. It will all be administered by Victoria Park.. There will be a post-season debrief on whether to continue this next year. Victoria Park were thanked for taking this on.

14. Any other business

Roger Wilkins (President) thanked the committee and all captains and players for keeping the league going over the last 2 difficult years.

Meeting ended at 8.40pm.

Annex 1

EDTL_personal_result_recording

Background – The new world tennis number (WTN) aka ranking, has both a singles and doubles version. All matches can count towards this number if recorded. More competitive players want to have all their results recorded on an official site to make their WTN more accurate. We've had a proposal that a selection of our league results be recorded this way.

We don't want to give Maureen more work so asked the proposers of this action to come up with a suggestion of how this might work. Victoria Park has now come back with a proposal for the AGM.

.Victoria Park proposes the following:

- 1) That for the trial season of 2022, results from men's leagues one and two would additionally be put onto the LTA results website. The reason for this selection is predominantly based on the fact that Victoria Park has three teams in these leagues. I also do not want to overburden Pete (see point three) before he has a better of idea of how much work will actually be involved.
- 2) Teams would need to opt-in as there would be an additional registration fee payable of £1.44 per team. It is hoped the vast majority of teams would be happy to pay this amount for the service provided.
- 3) Pete Smiley would enter the results - either having been sent the card directly from the club captain or forwarded from Maureen.
- 4) Ideally BTM numbers would be provided as part of the registration process - although apparently this is not necessary for results to be input (Pete is going to confirm this). Players could also opt out if they did not want their specific results updated in this way.

At the end of the season, a discussion could then be had on how interesting / informative / useful this additional service was, how much of an administrative burden it was, whether it should be repeated, who would be willing to provide the service, and whether it should be extended to other leagues.

Committee response

This must not be allowed to impose any extra burden on Maureen or Rosemary and as such the league will not be involved in any way with administration of this suggestion. All costs must be met by the relevant teams.

Score cards must be sent to Maureen first and could then be forwarded to Pete. The reason being we have a rule in place that score cards have to be sent in within 5 days, so in order for teams to avoid penalties, it would be their responsibility to get them to me in time.

Annex 2(A)

In the summer 2022 season if a team wishes to postpone a match for Covid reasons, for this to be considered the team captain must **email** the League Match Secretary to:

1. Request the postponement at least 24 hours before the match.
2. Give the name(s) of the players affected and confirm if the player(s) actually have Covid, or is it a relative/contact.
3. Explain why other players cannot take the place of the affected player(s).

Annex 3

ROLL OF HONOUR

Winter 2019-2020

Mens

Division 1 - EGCC A

Division 2 – Lympstone

Division 3 – Kingsteignton

Ladies

Division 1 – Seaton A

Division 2 – EGCC B

Division 3 – Budleigh

Division 4 – Teign Valley B

Summer 2021

Mens

Div 1 – Sampford Peverell A

Div 2 – Victoria Park B

Div 3 – EGCC B

Div 4 – Sidmouth A

Div 5 - Bovey Tracey A

Div 6 – Victoria Park E

Div 7 – Lympstone

Div 8 – Budleigh Salterton D

Ladies

Div 1 – Torquay A

Div 2 – Budleigh Salterton A

Div 3 – Sidmouth B

Div 4 – Okehampton A

Div 5 – Bovey Tracey A

Div 6 – Sidmouth C

Annex 4

Apologies

Crediton (Richard Wilk)
Exwick (Steve Ashton)
Kingsteignton (Rod Peers)
Lypstone (Liz Griffiths)
Melanie Kempson (Bovey Tracey)
Jane Comyns (Newton Abbot)
Viv Bess (Sidmouth)
Paul Howe (Teignmouth)
Richard Matthews (Teign Valley)
Joan Bolden (committee)
Peter Clarke (committee)

Present

Roger Wilkins (President)
Andy Malcolm (Chairman)
Maureen Sowerby (Match Secretary)
Rosemary Browne (Winter Match Secretary)
Catriona Batty (Treasurer)
Nicky Keele (committee)
Trevor Blatchford (committee)
Bovey Tracey (Matt Falkner)
Budleigh Salterton (Stephanie Teed)
Dawlish (Peter Elver)
EGCC (James Temple)
Newton Abbot (Andy Lloyd)
Newton St Cyres (Colin Bulled)
Okehampton (Dennis Challone)
Sidford (Daryl Bass)
Sidmouth (Frances Ionov)
Teignmouth (Graham Mallin)
Sampford Peverell (Matt Packham)
Teign Valley (Helen Elworthy)
Tunnels (Eric Farley)
Victoria Park (Tim Cartwright)
Willand (Brian Willan)
Woodbury (Gary Sheward)
Julian Howe (Teignmouth)

Annex 5

Exeter and District League - AGM 2022 - By Andy Malcolm

Chairman's report

So much has changed since my last report at the AGM 2 years ago in a room with 40+ people at the Buckerell Lodge Hotel and some illness being reported elsewhere in the world. The hotel is now closed, the AGM is being held virtually on Zoom (which most of us had never heard of then), groups of 40 meeting up in person feels very unusual and there has been such unexpected disruption from COVID.

The winter league of 2019-2020 had almost finished, with just a few matches outstanding, when the first lockdown happened and the final positions were decided on points per match. The Winners have not yet received their trophies but we will try and distribute them soon. After most of the preparatory work for the summer 2020 season we ended cancelling the summer season with no matches played. Coming to the winter of 2020-2021 we were hoping for improvements but decided to hold the league on a much relaxed and friendly basis with no trophies being awarded. In the end this was a fairly sensible decision.

The summer 2021 season was held with a late start date but given the situation we agreed that teams could drop out and be reinstated back where they would have been the next year. Otherwise the league carried on pretty much as normal. There will be trophies for this season and again we hope to distribute them soon.

The winter 2021-2022 season has been started and was originally supposed to be played under normal rules but the decline in the COVID situation has led to some problems with getting matches played.

The rules currently state that matches cannot be postponed, unless for bad weather. We need to consider how we go forward in a post-COVID world and as such the committee has come up with a proposal for your consideration later in the meeting.

I wish to say thank you to the committee who've tried to keep the league running in difficult circumstances.

Especially our match secretaries- Maureen Sowerby and Rosemary Browne

I also have to congratulate the winners of a Devon LTA award at their AGM last week. This included Phil Plummer for his long service at Exwick and Civil Service.

I hope everyone keeps safe and gets to enjoy their tennis in the coming year.

Devon LTA Report 2022

The county has managed to keep going through the pandemic and suffered little financial loss. Tennis activities have continued where possible.

A reminder that the county has funds which it can make available to help with the purchase of defibrillators for tennis clubs. These have shown their worth 3 times in the last 6 weeks in the county.

The county is hoping that things can carry on edging towards normality and that a full summers tennis will be possible.

Annex 6

Committee for 2021

Chairman – Andy Malcolm

Treasurer – Catriona Batty

Match Secretary – Maureen Sowerby

Winter match secretary – Rosemary Browne

Committee members –

- Peter Clarke
- Nicola Keele
- Joan Bolden
- Steve Rattlidge
- Trevor Blatchford

Annex 7

Exeter and District Lawn Tennis League Match Secretary Report 2021

Results Ladies:-

Div	Champions	Runners-up	Relegated	Fined 4/8pts No team	Fined 2pts Unreg.player	Late S/C	Unf. Matches
1	Torquay A	Newton St.Cyres A	Victoria Park A & Newton Abbot A				
2	Budleigh Salterton A	Sidmouth A	Exeter G Club B & Dawlish				
3	Sidmouth B	Seaton B	David Lloyd A & Tipton	David Lloyd A			
4	Okehampton A	Lympstone B	Willand A & Torquay B	Torquay B			
5	Bovey Tracey A	Seaton C	N. Abbott B & Willand B				
6	Sidmouth C	Bovey Tracey B	Re-apply Kingsteignton B				

Mens:-

Div	Champions	Runners-up	Relegated	Fined 4/8pts No team	Fined 2pts Unreg.player	Late S/C	Unf. Matches
1	Sampford Peverell A	Bud.Salterton A	S.Peverell B & Seaton A	David Lloyd A v S.Pev A			
2	Victoria Park B	Teignmouth A	Kingst. A & Willand A	Kingsteignton A			
3	Exeter G & C Club B	Bud.Salterton B	Torquay A & Willand B	Torquay A & Willand B			
4	Sidmouth A	Newton Abbot	Dawlish & David Lloyd C				
5	Bovey Tracey A	Seaton B	Okehampton & Sismouth B				
6	Victoria Park E	Teignmouth B	Kingsteignton C & Torquay B				
7	Lympstone	Sidford	David Lloyd D & Kingsteignton D				
8	Budleigh Salterton D	Crediton	Woodbury B Kingsteignton E to re-apply				

Fines – Aug 20th David Lloyd A 4 pts no team v Sampford Peverell A .

Kingsteignton A courts double booked so 4 point fine as they couldn't switch fixtures.

Torquay A – 4 points no team v Willand B then 8 points no team v Budleigh Salterton B

Willand B – no team v Budleigh Salterton B

There was just the one incident this year and that was between Torquay A and Newton St Cyres A ladies. The League Committee did not get involved as there were no league rules broken.

There were quite a few matches re-arranged because of Covid, although as time went on I suspected matches were being moved for other reasons and the captains were using the 'Covid' card!!! All but one of the Covid matches got played before end of August. Exeter B v Torquay A was played on 27th September as couldn't agree a date because each had players isolating.

Teignmouth asked about moving matches for the Euros football. Everyone managed to get the early dates moved forward. Then on July 15th had 2 more request to move but both teams also had players isolating so I allowed them to move them but had to be played before end of August.

I was lenient with un-registered players, especially from the smaller clubs who suddenly found they had to use an un-reg player to get the match played. Only gave each team 1 chance though. This year (2022) back to the rules as written. Penalties will be dished out for any team not complying with them.

Regarding the divisions for 2022 at the start of the season we gave teams the option to opt out because of the seriousness of Covid and the strict restrictions re travel and mixing with others outside their bubble. The committee agreed that if any team did opt out, and wanted to enter the league again they would be allowed back in in 2022 in their original division.

These were Mens Division 3 – Tiverton A and Exmouth A; Mens Division 4 – NSC's A; Mens Div 6 – Exmouth B; Mens Div 7 – Exeter G Club E and Div 8 – Tiverton B and Cranford.
Ladies Div 3 – Ottery St.Mary & Exmouth; Ladies Div 4 – NSC's B and Cranford;

Sadly we have had to say goodbye to Ottery St.Mary ladies – they have withdrawn as they do not have any courts of their own and do not have enough players to complete a full league program.

We do however, welcome back a mens team from Tunnels. They have some new players who would like to try competitive tennis as well as enjoying social club tennis.

Newton St Cyres decided not to re-enter their ladies' teams and also their mens A team into the league this year. Exmouth opted out last year but happy to re-enter this year in their 2021 positions. Their Ladies team asked to re-enter into division 6 as they too have lost players. Cranford opted out last year due to Covid restrictions as all their matches are played at the club which had to close down under government restrictions. Only the ladies are re-entering and have requested to start again in the bottom division. The committee have agreed to these requests.

My one and only gripe again is that if you wish to send in your score card after taking a photo of it, or scanning it using your phone, please make sure it is on a WHITE background and not a wooden table or pretty tablecloth. Its takes time to load the photo on to another program so that I can edit/crop/brighten it before printing.

Fingers crossed we can have a more settled time in the league this year, more of the sun and dry weather and less of the Covid restrictions. We need to get back to enjoying our tennis.

Take care and stay safe,
Best wishes,
Maureen Sowerby.
Summer Match Secretary