

EXETER AND DISTRICT TENNIS LEAGUE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 5 February 2014 at 7.00 pm at Buckerell Lodge Hotel, Topsham Rd, Exeter

MINUTES

The Meeting was attended by approximately 45 people, including representatives of all but six of the clubs, and members of the Committee. It was chaired by Andy Malcolm.

1. Apologies

Sampford Peverell, Okehampton, Budleigh Salterton, Chagford, Dawlish, Teign Valley

2. Minutes of AGM on 13 March 2013

The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising

11.2 Catriona Batty and Andy Malcolm contacted the LTA regarding foot-faulting. There are no more guidelines and nothing more we can do about this issue.

4. Presentation of Trophies

The trophies for the 2013 Summer League were presented by Roger Wilkins. After the presentation Roger gave an interesting talk. Roger was awarded the role of Honorary Vice President and presented with a framed certificate in recognition of his work as Chairman, Treasurer and Hon Gen Secretary of the EDTL over the years. Roger was delighted and thanked everyone. The Chairman also congratulated the winners of the trophies (**Annex 1**) and thanked Roger Wilkins for presenting the trophies.

5. Chairman's report (Annex 2)

There were no questions.

6. Treasurer's report

Catriona Batty (Treasurer) circulated her report in advance of the meeting. She presented her report and the accounts. There were no questions. The income is slightly higher because of the number of teams entering the league. Catriona's proposal for the fees to be reduced to £3 per team was seconded by Wendy Smith. This was accepted by every club, except one. Andy Malcolm thanked Catriona for her work as Treasurer, it is much appreciated.

7. Match Secretary's report (Annex 3)

Clubs agreed unanimously to the new divisions that Maureen Sowerby (Summer League Match Secretary) published on the website approximately 10 days ago. One team, Lypstone B has pulled out of Div 7 and a team may pull out of the ladies. Fixtures will be sent to clubs within 10 days and clubs have until 1 April to change their fixtures. If either club wishes to rearrange a date every effort should be made to accommodate this. Clubs can't change matches after this date except to play the match on an earlier date. Week-end match times should be confirmed with the opposition. The summer league's fixtures will start Easter week and fixtures go through into August. Clubs have until 30 September to fulfil their fixtures.

Registration forms should be sent to Maureen by 10th April or before a team's first home match.. Clubs must send in their score cards within five days and photos of score cards from phones

should not be used. Maureen will always send an acknowledgement. Clubs can check on website for confirmation that the score card has been received. Allowing teams to play juniors was discussed at the committee meeting and agreed that it was the club's decision and their responsibility for their behaviour and any accidents that might occur. There has been positive feedback regarding the website. Special thanks to Max Goss at Victoria Park who has helped Maureen with pages not loading properly etc. Please contact Maureen on her landline or email in the first instance with any queries. Maureen thanked the Chairman, Committee and all clubs and emphasised if she seems harsh she is only following the rules! Andy Malcolm, on behalf of the league, presented Maureen with a small gift and thanked her for all her hard work.

One club queried strong teams having to work their way up the league. Andy Malcolm reminded clubs that they voted for this system and a proposal for changing this could be sent in next year for clubs to discuss.

8. Devon LTA report (Annex 4)

Andy Malcolm would like to hear from anyone who is interested in becoming our league representative on the Devon LTA Council. There are three Council meetings each year and workload is currently unclear because of LTA changes. Our present league reps are Andy Malcolm and Catriona Batty, both already on the Council as Treasurer and Ladies Vets secretary respectively and they are both happy to stand down as our league reps if anyone else is interested.

Catriona and Andy were voted back on the Council until replaced. This was unanimously agreed.

9. Proposals for changes to Rules (Annex 5)

Rule 15 - The majority of clubs voted to include the following sentence as the first tie-breaker.

- The team with fewer matches conceded.

Rule 14a - The majority of clubs voted for:

- Automatic 2 up two down

Rule 6 – Clubs voted unanimously for the following sentence to be added to rule 6.

If any team falsifies a score card, the captain, or person responsible, will be suspended from the League for a period of one year, or longer at the discretion of the committee.

10. Any other business

- All members of the committee are happy to stand again and clubs unanimously agreed to vote them back on. There is one minor amendment, Nicki Keele, has become Honorary General Secretary, instead of Minutes Secretary. as originally appointed.
- Matthew Wheadon reminded clubs that there is a very good clubs' page on the EDTL website. Clubs should pass on their information to Maureen Sowerby.
- If teams cannot field a team because of sudden illness or extenuating circumstances, they should contact Maureen as soon as possible. Clubs are encouraged to have a reserve player ready to step in if needed. If only two players are available, it is not possible to send them to a match, because of the distance travelled and players having to wait to play.

Andy thanked all club representatives for attending the meeting and wished them a good year of tennis.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

ANNEX 1
Trophy winners for Summer Leagues 2013

Division	Men	Ladies
1	Torquay A	Exeter G Club A
2	Kingsteignton A	Seaton A
3	Teignmouth A	Victoria Park B
4	Lypstone A	David Lloyd Exeter A
5	Civil Service B	Newton St Cyres B
6	David Lloyd Exeter A	Teignmouth
7	Teignmouth B	
8	Torquay D	

ANNEX 2
Chairman's Report

This past summer was a good one for the league with very few postponements due to the weather. This winter season has seen much more disruption.

Once again the league has expanded with over 100 teams playing tennis in the summer and more teams entering the winter leagues. This has also lead to increased workloads for many of the committee.

I must thank the committee for their efforts over the year. Hopefully we can continue running the league so that the maximum number of players get enjoyment from playing the game.

There has been one major issue that has taken a lot of thought and time over the year. After last year's warning about scorecards being a true reflection of the match played we expected no major issues. Unfortunately 2 clubs conspired to create a totally fictitious result card. When discovered both teams were fined, but unfortunately this didn't end up changing the final league situation much. Both clubs were apologetic about the situation but the players involved seemed to treat it much less seriously. That is why as a deterrent to future culprits we want to explicitly give the committee the scope to ban players for future occurrences.

The only other big problem was when due to a lack of communication, two teams turned up at different times for a match. If playing at a weekend please confirm match times with the opposition before the match.

We also had an occurrence where a player was obviously registered out of merit order, A recent county champion registered to a club B team. The Match secretary will be stricter on this if such a thing happens again.

People are trying to send their scorecards by smartphone. If signal strength is poor them the cards don't get to Maureen. We will no longer accept the excuse "I sent it from my i-phone, oh it's still in my inbox! Maureen will treat this as a late scorecard. Maureen will always acknowledge receipt of cards so if you don't receive a response it hasn't arrived.

We have been lucky this year and not had to rearrange the leagues too much. We may have a problem next year if we continue expanding the number of teams entered with the possibility of more relegations than people expect or even moving to parallel divisions at the bottom of the men's league. The committee will always try and act in the best interests of the league even if this has unexpected consequences for league teams.

Whatever happens I hope you all have a happy year on court and off it.

Andy Malcolm

Annex 3

Match Secretary Report for AGM 2014

1: Introduction

The 2013 season finished on time with all matches finished. Budleigh Salterton ladies B and Sidmouth men were the first teams to finish on schedule with no postponements.

Fines were necessary as follows:— 2 Ladies teams and 8 Men's team failed to field a team, (one team twice). This is the highest number of men's teams defaulting for quite some time. 4 ladies teams and 4 men's teams (one team twice) were fined for playing un-registered players.

Web site updated with full fixture list and results as they came in.

Both the men's and ladies 2nd placed team in Div 2 declined promotion up into Div 1.

2: Results

Ladies:-

Div	Champions	Runners-up	Relegated	Fined 8pts No team	Fined 2pts Unreg.player	Late S/C	Unf. Matches
1	Exeter G & C.Club A	Torquay A	Sidford	Torquay A			
2	Seaton A	Tunnels	Exeter G & C.Club B Kingsteignton A		Budleigh Salterton A		
3	Victoria Park B	Sidmouth A	Okehampton Newton Abbot		Torquay C		
4	David Lloyd A	Bovey Tracey	Tiverton Dawlish	Dawlish	Teign Valley A Budleigh Salterton B		
5	Newton St.Cyres B	David Lloyd B	Chagford B Exeter G & C.Club D		D.lloyd 2pts Seaton B*		
6	Teignmouth	Sidmouth B	re-apply Teign Valley B				

*Both teams fined 2 points for not playing fixture on correct date due to both teams having wrong times.

Mens:-

Div	Champions	Runners-up	Relegated	Fined 8pts No team	Fined 2pts Unreg/illegal player	Late S/C	Unf. Matches
1	Torquay A	Exeter G & C Club	Torquay B	Torquay A Exeter G & C.Club A			
2	Kingsteignton A	Seaton A	Okehampton A Exeter G & C Club B	24 – Torquay C 32 – S.Pevl B 8- Exeter B	Exeter B		
3	Teignmouth A	Willand A	Exeter C Tunnels A				
4	Lympstone	V.Park C	Dawlish B Exeter D				
5	C.Service B	Kingsteignton C	Seaton B V.Park D	Seaton B x 2	Kingsteignton C		
6	David Lloyd A	David Lloyd B	Tipton St.John B Lympstone B	Lympstone B			
7	Teignmouth B	Kingsteignton D	N.St.Cyres D Tunnels B	Tunnels B	Seaton C x 2 Woodbury B		
8	Torquay D	Ottery St.Mary	re-apply Kingsteignton F	Kingsteignton F Sidmouth B		Kings F No card	

Ladies Div 2 RU Tunnels and Mens Div 2 RU Seaton A do not want to go up into Div 1.

3: Problems

As the Chairman has pointed out teams say they sent score cards from iphones, ipads etc.. I don't always get them, so please scan and attach to an email As I've said before taking a photo of the score card on your phone is not acceptable as the photo doesn't print out clearly.

Registration Forms all received by 17th April after several reminders. Some captains very lazy and just emailing the names. Please note that I will only accept registrations on the correct form. If a form is lost or not available, then there is a downloadable version on the website.

Teams still trying to move matches after closing date and also still trying to move matches outside the league rules, by saying both captains agree to moving the match ☹️
Most of you present tonight are club contacts and not necessarily a captain of a team. Please make sure that your individual captains are aware of the rules – which are on the website – and also make sure they get the registration forms and score cards. Emails received from a couple of captains saying they only received their match dates a day or so before the cut off date, when actually they had been sent out to the club contacts 4 weeks earlier.

FIXTURES:-

Very good response to the fixture list last year with only a few teams moving matches.

This year the last date for moving matches is April 1st and all registrations must be received on the proper form by April 10th. If there is a fixture down that you wish to move, please do so as early as

possible by contacting the opposing team and re-arranging it between yourselves. Inside the folder you will find a slip on which you can then put down the change of date. This just helps me spot the changes – trying to cross check dates across 100 teams is difficult enough anyway, just makes my life easier.

I intend to start the fixtures Easter week commencing April 21st (Easter week) with just a few matches per division the week before April 14th. Those matches will be mainly inter-club matches where we have 2 teams in the same division, plus a small number of matches for teams who have nominated a Monday as their home night. The draw gives every team one match a week, and with 3 Bank Holiday Mondays before the end of August, it will be necessary to fix those playing on a Monday who are drawn at home to either earlier or later in the season.

As usual in the first draft of fixtures I will not be putting any matches the main May Bank Holiday week. Of course if you need to, you can move a match into that week if your opposition agrees.

4: Complaints/Problems

Email and phone call from a couple of teams re Juniors playing in the league. This was discussed in committee and although most of us don't appreciate being knocked off the courts by 12 year olds we felt that it was the clubs decision whether to play them or not. The responsibility for their safety and behaviour of course must rest with that club

Again the Chairman highlighted the serious case of falsifying a score card for a match that was not. Fines of 24 points were imposed to both teams. Apologies received from Chairman of both clubs. Unfortunately although both teams were fined heavily, they did not lose their place in Division 2. I have had emails saying the penalties weren't harsh enough and that both teams should have been relegated in the 2014 season. I also received an email asking me what penalties the league were placing on the players involved. This is up for discussion later on.

Finally:-

Website working well and lots of positive feedback received. I would like to a special thanks to on to Max Goss from Victoria Park who helped me with the issue of the pages not uploading fully i.e. one page uploading straight away whilst the next sometimes didn't publish all the info in one go, therefore tables and results didn't match. This is mainly down to the very slow broadband speeds in Brixham area, but he did give me some help in re-coding the pages to help them load more quickly.

Thanks again to the Chairman and committee for their help and support throughout the season.

Many thanks to you all to you all for your nice emails or not nice emails - We very nearly had a perfect season, so fingers crossed we all get an easy ride in 2014.

Maureen Sowerby

Annex 4

Devon DLTA Notes for AGM 2014

Devon LTA Restructuring

The LTA are going through a **Major Restructuring Exercise** and a new chief exec is now in place. Although **still in a consultation process** the LTA are proposing –

- All County Offices should be closed and administration should be centralised at Regional Offices at Bristol & Southampton
- All Field Staff within the LTA will be made redundant and have to reapply for jobs available

If it goes ahead this will seriously affect the County Association. Chris Bawden our County Administrator does an amazing amount of admin for the County. Georgina Loosemore, our Tennis Development Manager and Debbie Hale, our Talent & Performance Coordinator are also affected by this proposal.

If confirmed, the County Association will have to decide how to run activities including all the financial admin that Chris Bawden does currently. DLTA Councillors will probably have to take on more responsibilities. The Devon LTA will keep everyone informed when further information is available.

Club of the Year

Congratulations to Willand who won the Club of the year trophy, presented at the DLTA AGM in January.

Vernon Weaver Cup & Junior County Cups

This competition for the winning teams of the four Devon leagues will be held at Tarka Tennis Centre, Barnstaple on Sunday 13 April. Spectators are welcome.

As they also are at the Tarka on 28 Feb-2 Mar when the Devon Girls U18 team will be competing against Berkshire, West of Scotland & Dorset. The Boys are away at Bromley.

Report on Devon Players

Lucie Ahl & Karen Cross, both from Exeter are in the GB 40s team for the Seniors World Championships in Florida this April. Jo Louis of Exmouth is a reserve for the 45s team. Last year Jo Louis, Sue Wiltshire & Sally Freeman played for GB vets teams at the World Championships in Turkey in March.

Jack Findel-Hawkins from Exmouth who was recently DLTA Junior player of year was named as LTA AASE (Advanced Apprentice in Sporting Excellence) Apprentice of the year for being the best member of a programme which combines playing tennis with written exams and projects. Emma Hurst of Seaton continues her progress and was also nominated as Junior Player of the Year.

Our juniors are increasing their participation on a regional and national level. The Flybe tournaments and Team Flybe are raising our profile on a national level.

Devon Vets teams

Several players from our league have competed for Devon in the various age groups – 35s upwards. If anyone is interested in being considered for the teams please contact Catriona Batty. Practices are held for some of the squads over the winter.

Loans & Grants to Clubs are available

One thing worth noting is that the county does have some reserves and would like to put them to use by continuing the practice of interest free loans with grants to clubs. Please contact Andy Malcolm or Devon LTA with further queries.

League Representatives to the DLTA Council

Last year Andy Malcolm and Catriona Batty acted as the Exeter area representatives on the DLTA Council. The role is to act as a conduit to the DLTA for the clubs in the area. The league votes for the area reps at this AGM. If any member of a club in the league would like to take on the role of an area rep we'd welcome new blood.

Andy Malcolm

Annex 5 Proposed Rule Changes for 2014 AGM

Proposal from Committee to amend Rule 15

To include the sentence below in red.

15) In the event of a "Tie" between two or more teams, League placings will be decided as follows:

- **The team with fewer matches conceded**
- The team with the most wins.
- The better results in the two games played against each other.
- If still level - a play off - on a neutral ground chosen by the Executive Committee.

Proposal from Committee to discuss Rule 14a

To discuss and vote on the following options in red.

14) Promotion and Relegation shall be:

a) Two up and two down, except that the team finishing second in Division 2 has the option of not being promoted, in which case the team finishing second from bottom in Division 1 will remain in that Division.

- ***If a second place team opts not to be promoted the place in Division 1 would be offered to any team within 10 points, in finishing order.***
- ***Automatic 2 up two down.***
- ***Leave as current rule – only second placed team has the option to be promoted.***

Proposal from Committee to discuss Rule 6

To add the following sentence in red below.

6) The Executive Committee shall have the power to suspend or expel any team or member of the League whose conduct in their opinion is detrimental to the interests of the League.

If any team falsifies a scorecard the captain or person responsible will be suspended from the league for a period of at least one year, at the discretion of the committee.