

**MINUTES OF THE
SOUTHPORT AND DISTRICT TENNIS LEAGUE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Held on Thursday 16 February 2017 at 7.30 p.m.
At Southport & Birkdale Sports Club

2017 SEASON OPENING DATE IS WEEK BEGINNING MONDAY 24 APRIL,
FINISHING DATE IS WEEK BEGINNING MONDAY 24 JULY.

The Vice-Chairman thanked everyone for attending and during the course of the evening conveyed his thanks to all the individuals responsible (especially those retiring from office) for running the League and to Birkdale for the use of their facilities yet again.

1. CLUBS REPRESENTED AND RECORDED: representatives attended from Argyle (3), Aughton (1), Birkdale (5), Blundellsands (0), Champion (2), Carlton (2), Croston (2), David Lloyd (1), Formby (0), Formby HT (4), Hightown (2), Hillside (3), Hoole (0), Mawdesley (1), North Meols (2), Ormskirk (1), Rainford (1), Southbank (3), Sphynx (2), Town Green (1), Waterloo (1).

2. APOLOGIES received from John Spurr, Barry Burns, Dave Clifford, Neil and Jane Leadbetter, Alan McGibbon, John Langton, Stephen Dundas and Les and Lesley Rimmer.

3. As the MINUTES of the 2016 AGM are available on the website and no questions were raised or inaccuracies reported, the Vice-Chairman signed them as a factually accurate record. Proposed: Dave Mulligan. Seconded: Denis Swainson. All in favour – passed unanimously (no abstentions).

4. MATTERS ARISING – Club of the Year. This was referred to the next meeting of Club Chairman who decided not to go ahead with it.

5. THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT is also available on the website. No questions arose.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT –

Jason handed copies of the Accounts to the meeting and then read out his Report which is reproduced at the end of these Minutes.

Chris Cresswell had agreed to audit the accounts in the absence of David Ellis and will act as auditor in the future.

As no questions were asked his Report was accepted. Proposed: Seconded: Yvonne James. All in favour - passed unanimously (no abstentions).

7. MATCH SECRETARY'S REPORT (available on the website).

Katya expressed her thanks to Hilary, Neil and, in particular, George and asked that clubs explained the importance of making sure their Captains knew the Rules.

A New Report for 2016 had been produced this year by the LMRSC which now covers disciplinary matters as well as Rule Breaches. This enables an appeal to be made to the Executive regarding any decision by the LMRSC.

8. THE TEAM TOURNAMENT SECRETARY'S REPORT (available on the web site). Val thanked Katya, Hilary and George for their assistance.
9. THE INDIVIDUAL TOURNAMENT SECRETARIES. Denis Swainson has posted a detailed Report on the website. The event was better than the previous year and he thanked all players and spectators. The closing date for entries is 21 May but in case people have not received a Handbook by then he would accept entries by email, telephone, text etc. and payments can be made by cash, cheque or BACS. Denis will contact all clubs with the necessary details. Finals day 23 July 2017.
10. THE SPARTANS TROPHY SECRETARY REPORT. Val particularly stressed that Clubs tell their Captains that they have been entered. Several incidents had occurred last year where matches were conceded due to the fact that the team captain did not know in time that his team had been entered.
11. THE JUNIOR SECRETARY'S REPORT is available on the website and highlights the fact that, at this moment in time, there is no venue for the Junior Tournament. The host club will receive a payment so could anyone interested ask their Junior Reps to please contact Dave Clifford.
12. APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP/RESIGNATION. New applications have been received from Southbank 4 and Formby Holy Trinity 6 and a resignation from Ormskirk 6. Maghull have been expelled from the League due to consistent Rule Breaches.

As a result the Divisions will be formatted as follows:

1 – 3: 2 up and 2 down (as usual)

4, 5 and 6: 1 down and 2 up

7, 8 and 9: none down and 2 up.

Division 9 will only have 7 not 8 teams.

13. RULE CHANGES:

The following 4 Rule changes have been proposed and seconded by members of the Executive Committee and were put to the vote:

1. Rule B (v)(f) Each club with more than one team in the League shall nominate, before the fourth match of the season, 3 gents and 3 ladies for each team, excluding the lowest team. These nominated players shall be known as "starred" players. No alteration to these nominations shall be made until after the seventh and before the eighth match of the season except in cases of injury or as directed by the Hon Match Secretary for breaches of Rule B (v)(g). No alterations may be made after the eighth match except in cases of injury or as directed by the Hon Match Secretary.

All in favour - passed unanimously (no abstentions).

2. Rule B (v)(i)ineligible players must be played in the lowest position in the lowest team.

Andrew McMorrison (FHTTC) queried what would happen if teams were playing on different nights. If this situation arises please speak to Katya.

All in favour - passed unanimously (no abstentions).

3. .Rule B (xiv) .. All players participating in League competitions must be registered

with the Membership Officer. Lists of club members who may be selected must be received by the Membership Officer before the first match of the season. Additional players may be added to the agreed list if the membership officer is notified prior to participating in a match. No registrations are permitted after 30th June.

All in favour - passed unanimously (no abstentions).

4. Knockout Competitions. 3(b) Events shall be decided over three TIE-BREAK sets.

All in favour - passed unanimously (no abstentions).

14. ELECTION OF OFFICERS. There was no election as only 1 person per position was nominated. The officers prepared to continue in office are as listed below.

President: Mr B Burns
Chairman: Mr J Spurr
Vice-Chairman: Mr R Hemmings
Treasurer: Mr J McLeod
Match Secretary: Mrs K Clifford
Individual Tournament Secretary/s: Mr D Swainson/Les Rimmer
Team Tournament Secretary: Mrs V Ormerod
Junior League Co-ordinator: Mr D Clifford
Spartan's Trophy Secretary: Mrs V Ormerod
General Secretary: Mrs G McGibbon
Hon Auditor: Mr Chris Cresswell
Handbook Secretary: Mrs H Bell

The General Committee (prepared to continue in office):
Mr G Coulthard (Town Green), Mr T Hale (Mawdesley), Mr N Leadbetter (Campion), Ms T Smith (David Lloyd), Richard McGregor (Sphynx), Christian Bryan (Formby LTC) and Mick Walsh (Carlton).

There is one place available on the General Committee due to the resignation of Andy Williams and volunteers for co-option would be welcomed by the Executive. Ideally the volunteer should come from one of the clubs not currently represented on the Executive, i.e: Aughton, Blundellsands, Croston, Hightown, Hoole, Rainford or Southbank.

The approval of Chris Cresswell as Hon Auditor was passed unanimously.

15. ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES TO LANCASHIRE LTA COUNCIL.

John Spurr and Neil Leadbetter were again elected as The Southport and District League's Representatives to Lancashire LTA Council. Rob Hemmings also reported that he had been asked to represent Club Chairmen's Meetings which he will refer to later.

16. REPORT BACK FROM TENNIS LANCASHIRE COUNCIL MEETINGS.

The BTM (British Tennis Membership) had abandoned their 3-tier system and reverted to a two-tier one with members of the free tier allowed to enter the Wimbledon Ballot. The paid tier will be given discounts on various products/services.

Club interest-free loans are available for up to £10k for 5 years.

The LTA have received a 'windfall' of £25m for the sale of interest in the All England's Club grounds and are discussing how best to use the money!

17. MEETING OF CLUB CHAIRMEN

RH reported there have been 2 meetings so far which had proved very useful regarding common issues i.e. Tennis Mark, facilities, costs of maintenance etc. Next meeting is on 15 March at Blundellsands and will be attended by some LTA Representatives to talk about infrastructure, financial issues and also clubs' concerns about 'local tennis leagues'.

18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

Code of Conduct – As mentioned earlier the LMRSC will in future take action if any disciplinary issues are reported to them. The Code of Conduct will be printed in the handbook.

Electronic reporting – Andrew McMorran raised the possibility of reporting match results electronically. Katya agreed it would be fantastic if appropriate for our league. At present there is no software available that could accommodate the 'starring system', ineligible players etc and the League prefers to keep a paper record of all matches for ease of checking. Photocopies or copies sent on smartphones are not always legible. Pauline Pope from Croston will enquire into the software used by the Ribble League.

Mary Ball from Birkdale asked that Captains be reminded to fill in their match cards with names before the match. It was pointed out that if Captains acquainted themselves with the Guidelines in the Handbook many problems could be avoided.

The dates for the start and finish of the 2017 Season are week commencing 24 April and finishing week commencing 24 July. This means that fixtures are continuous (i.e. no gap for bank holiday) and there are 3 early starts at the beginning and 2 at the end of the season.

George Coulthard (Town Green) informed the meeting that the new divisions' structure would be available on the website in the morning. Thanks were conveyed to George for his continued work on the website.

Chris Cresswell led a vote of thanks to all the Committee members for their hardwork.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.17 p.m.

Treasurer Report 16/02/2017

I would like to thank the committee for their support and for my countersignatures for being available.

Thanks to Chris for auditing the figures. If anyone would like to volunteer to review the accounts next year could they let me or the committee know.

A thank you to all the clubs that made a prompt payment making my life so much easier.

I would also like to thank Dave Clifford and Dennis Swainson for their efficiency in collecting the Junior and individual tournament entry fees.

Little change to report in the account, they are still showing healthy balances:

- They are down by £55.29 this year,
- There is one outstanding club to pay their fees which I shall add onto the 2017 fees
- We purchased one new trophy this year at a cost of £58
- League Administration-small deficit £39.19
- Team Tournaments – deficit of £102.97
- Individual Tournaments – surplus of £100.10
 - All improvements on previous year
- Junior Section ran a deficit of £43.23 but still in surplus over the last couple of years
- First year of sponsorship from the Lancashire League £30.

Any Questions?