

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Wilson Southport & District Tennis Executive
Committee at Southport & Birkdale Sports' Club
On Wednesday 20th April 2011**

Present:

Barry Burns, John Spurr, Rob Hemmings, Hilary Bell, Mary Ball, Chris Cresswell, George Coulthard, Neil Leadbetter, Barbara Davies, Tracey Smith, Andy Williams.

Apologies:

Terry Barham, Beverley Bond, Brenda Cox, Rob Owens, Andrew Rushton, Marilyn Walker.

AGENDA

To discuss the formation of a League Match Regulations (LMR) Sub-Committee from the members of the General Committee of the League, to deal with complaints/disputes.

The Chairman opened the meeting by stating that the AGM had voted in favour of a League Match Regulations Sub-Committee and had charged the EC with the establishment of such a body. He invited Neil Leadbetter to outline how this worked in practice in the Liverpool League. It was agreed that the basis would work for our league but that we would want to retain the right of appeal. The Chairman invited Rob Hemmings to go through points that he had previously raised by email.

1) The number of members on the sub-committee

After much discussion, it was agreed that the smaller the better and ideally to be an odd number. It was felt that 5 should be the number, with 3 constituting a quorum, but if there were 4 present who couldn't agree the Chairman would have a casting vote.

2) Multiple members from 1 club

Both Rob and Marilyn (not present) raised an objection to having more than 1 member per club on the sub-committee to avoid an accusation of bias. They suggested also a constituent member should step down if his/her club was involved. Hilary expressed her complete rejection of any suggestion that she or any officer would allow club sentiment to influence any disciplinary proceedings. Indeed she had proved over the years that she had never been less than even-handed when her own club had been involved. There was complete agreement from the rest of those present with her avowal that club membership would not be a factor in decision making and that therefore there was no need for a bar to more than one member of a particular club sitting on the committee.

3) Officers to be elected

On the basis of the above statements, it was agreed that Neil Leadbetter, having experience of a LMRSC, should be chairman. Obviously as Hon Match Sec, Hilary must be a member to report/explain breaches of the rules

or to bring complaints to the attention of the committee. Neil agreed and said that he thought intervention by him at an early stage could on most occasions avert the necessity of calling a meeting. Chris Cresswell proposed John Spurr because of his deep knowledge and experience of rules and procedures. Barbara Davies expressed her willingness to serve, as did Tracey Smith, who also may be willing to shadow Hilary as Match Secretary as suggested by Andy Williams.

4) Reporting back to EC

On the rare occasions on which the SC will be called, Neil as Chairman undertook to be responsible to report to the full EC on any decisions taken and penalties imposed under the rules.

5) The Remit of the Committee The LMRSC will be responsible for ensuring that all League Rules are adhered to. Any breaches of those rules or any complaints arising from match play will fall within the purview of this committee, which will deal with these matters and impose sanctions accordingly.

AOB

Andy Williams requested that the EC look at relaxing the rules on eligibility for League matches for “small” clubs and the possibility of allowing players to participate in more than one match in a week which is not rain affected.

Meeting closed at 20-45.

Signed.....