

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Slazenger North East Cheshire Lawn Tennis League held at Davenport L.T.C. on Wednesday, 30th. November 2016 at 8 p.m.

Present:

The President – Mr. Peter Jackson, The Acting Chairman – Ms. A. M. Groarke and Secretary - Mr. Barry Oswald with members of the Executive Committee plus representatives of 37 clubs of the League.

1) Apologies for Absence:

None.

2) The Roll Call:

The Roll Call was taken later in the meeting. 37 Clubs were present with five clubs not represented, they were Bowdon, Brooklands, Croftside, Hale Barns & Lindow.

3) The Minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting:

The Minutes of the previous AGM had been sent to Clubs prior to this Meeting. At the proposal of Bramhall Lane and seconded by Alderley Edge the Minutes were adopted as a true and correct record then duly signed by the Acting Chairman.

4) Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising.

5) To Receive the Report of the Secretary:

The Report of the Secretary, Mr. Oswald, had been sent to clubs before the Meeting. He highlighted some items of the Report and other matters that had arisen since the sending out of the Report as follows:-

5.1: Chairman: Mr. Peel, our Chairman had recently stepped down and the Secretary introduced Mr. Steve Thompson, who had allowed his name to go forward for election later in the Meeting. Mr. Thompson outlined his background and his experience on the Executive Committee as Tournament Secretary. The Secretary explained that Mr. Thompson had the unanimous backing of the Executive Committee and hoped that the Meeting would be able to support his nomination.

5.2 Proposal correction: The day before the AGM the Secretary had emailed clubs about a correction to Item 12 on the agenda, the last line on the page, the missing words were immediately after “Trial” and were as follows “before 31st. May and after 31st. July.” A number of emails had bounced back so the respective clubs were asked to send in a current email to the Secretary.

5.3 New Teams accepted:- Ladies: Alderley Edge 5; Bowdon Bowling 3. Men: Macclesfield 3; Didsbury 5

5.4 Strines withdrawal: A sad letter had been received from Mr. Pat. Downes of Strines to say that he had been Match Secretary for almost 50 years but as he could not get anybody to take over he had to withdraw their only team. Mr. Downes dedication to the cause was exemplary and the meeting acknowledged his dedication by giving a round of applause. The Secretary offered him and his club best wishes for the future.

The Acting Chairman thanked Mr. Oswald for his Report, which was adopted at the proposal of Priory and seconded by Bramhall Park.

6) To Receive the Report of the Treasurer:

Ms, Anne Marie Groarke, the Honorary Treasurer had circulated the League Accounts at the start of the Meeting. The League Subscription is to remain at £22 per team for the forthcoming season. She advises that clubs would be able to pay subs direct into the bank account for the new season. Details to be circulated with the subscription invoices. Two clubs Bowdon & Croftside had paid incorrect subs amounts this year and there were cheques to return for the excess amount paid.

The Honorary Treasurer’s Report was adopted at the proposal of Bramhall Lane, Seconded by Strines.

7) To Receive the Report of the Ladies League Match Secretary:

Mrs. Bowens report:-

“The Ladies season started by welcoming 2 new teams; Lymm 4 and Davenport 3. There were to be 3 new teams but Claremont, a brand new club to the league, withdrew for various reasons, just before the start of the season.

The season was finally completed on 10th August, following a poor summer of very mixed weather, sadly it was a rare evening where the sun shone and the heat was unbearable. Many matches were postponed due to flooded courts and driving rain which created quite a bit of fixture congestion in July and 6 matches had to be played in August which is never ideal for either team. It's always a very pleasant duty to congratulate all the divisional winners and runners up especially the two teams who won all their matches. These were; Alderley Edge 4 in Division 7 and

Davenport 3 in Division 8.

The divisional winners were;

Premier Div - Bramhall Lane 1

1st Div – Albert 1

2nd Div – Mere 1

3rd Div – Queensgate 3

4th Div – Bowdon 2

5th. Div – Bowdon Bowling 1

6th. Div – Albert 2

7th. Div - Alderley Edge 4

8th.Div - Davenport 3

Mere 1, Queensgate 3 and Bowdon Bowling 1 have now won consecutive divisions in consecutive years, whilst Davenport 3 won Division 8 at the first time of competing, which is a great achievement for these 4 teams. Unfortunately this year there was a higher number of penalties incurred; 27 in total which

involved 15 different teams.

8 matches were conceded

17 short teams

2 players played down

However, on the plus side, there were no fines for late cards or missing surnames.

Also, there were no 18-0 wins, (excluding walkovers), and 65% of all matches consisted of 12 sets. In 2015 that figure was 59%, in 2014 it was 45% and in 2013 it was 37%. It is unknown what percentage number of matches were pre agreed 12 sets or whether they naturally completed after 12 sets were played. (See graph below.)

This year a total of 968 ladies played in the Ladies League, which is at the highest level since 2012.

My thanks, once again, go to the committee for their advice and support during the season, especially to Bob for his invaluable advice over the years, I wish him well in his 'retirement' and to Marjorie for preparing tonight's supper. Also, once again I would like to show my appreciation, to Peter and Gwen Newman for their invaluable input in preparing all the fixture sheets ready for the fixture meeting in January.

Val Bowen

NECLTL Ladies Match Secretary

30th November 2016"

The Acting Chairman thanked Mrs. Bowen for her work and Report. At the proposal of Poynton and seconded by Hazel Grove the Report was adopted.

8) To Receive the Report of the Mens League Match Secretary:

Mr. Houlker's Report is also given in full:-

"The season started with 3 new teams entering the league , Baxter Park/Brookside, Alderley Edge 5 and Hale 5 with the latter 2 teams easily winning promotion from div 10. 4 teams withdrew, Lymm 3, Club AZ2, Sale 2 and Greave 2. About half way through the season Macclesfield 3 had to withdraw

It has again been another successful season with very few disputes but there has been an increase in the number of offences. In particular there were 7 conceded matches, 6 instances of playing down, 6 late or no cards, 3 teams with missing names, 6 short teams and 2 players played too many matches.

just a reminder of Rule 23.8.1 that any team in the top 4 divisions who finish in a relegation position and concede a match will be relegated twice. This will mean that David Lloyd Cheadle 1 from div 2 will be relegated to div 4.

There were 49 rearranged matches, but despite this, all but 1 match were completed on time and promotion and relegation from most divisions depended on the final matches.

47% of matches, compared to 38% last season, consisted of 12 sets or below and only 8% played 18 sets. About 1250 men played team tennis, this figure has remained the same for a number of years.

A special mention for Lindow 1 for 6 successive promotions and next season will play in division 4 and to Prestbury 1 for winning the Premiership with a better ratio of sets won to sets conceded from Northern 1. There were successive promotions for 8 teams, namely, Alderley Edge 1, West Heaton 1 and 3, Priory 1 and 2, David Lloyd M/C, Bowdon 2 and Mere 2. 3 teams were relegated for the 2nd year. There were 5 teams who went down and then came up, and 7 teams who went up and then came down. This represents a fifth of all promoted and relegated teams. West Heaton 1 and Croftside 1 won all their matches and Mere 2 and Alderley Edge 5 were undefeated.

Thank you to all the team captains for sending the cards in promptly. Next season you can continue to post them , send a copy electronically or do both.

After many years in the League Strines have reluctantly decided to withdraw their team as no one is prepared to take over from Pat Downs , who is standing down, having run the teams for as many years as I can remember.

Finally Bob Peel. I have very much enjoyed working with him, he took over as Chairman when I became match secretary. I don't think he really wanted the job but he has worked extremely hard and been very supportive. We have had many disagreements and arguments over the years, which I am sure we both enjoyed, at least I did. I will certainly miss him but you can't keep going for ever. Well done, Bob.

John Houlker,

Mens League Match Secretary”

The Acting Chairman thanked Mr. Houlker for his Report & excellent work throughout the season. At the proposal of Bramhall Lane, seconded by Mere, the Mens League Match Secretary's Report was adopted unanimously.

9) To Receive the Reports of the Tournament Secretaries:

9.1 Mr. Thompson's Acton Competition Report 2016 Season in full:-

“The Acton Competition has had a good year. This season eligible clubs not included in the competition previously were invited to take part. A record 34 clubs took part in a 32-match competition. In order to accommodate additional clubs, we introduced a preliminary round consisting of new clubs and clubs not competing in the first round in the competition in prior years.

To allow more time for semi final fixtures to be arranged in August, this year mid season deadlines were brought forward by 1 week. In the main, matches were played on time, however some deadlines were extended to clubs experiencing difficulty in arranging fixtures to enable matches to be played. This did cause some bottlenecks towards the end of the competition

Competition has been particularly strong with both the Acton Plate and the Acton Cup in 2016. In both competitions different clubs have competed in both the semi finals and finals compared with last year.

Acton Plate

Well done to Cheadle, Woodside, Club AZ, and Alderley Edge for successfully getting through to the Semi Finals.

In the Final Woodside won 3:2 in a very close match against Alderley Edge played at Woodside

Acton Cup

Well done to Brabyns, Northern, Mellor and Bramhall Lane for successfully getting through to the Semi Finals. In the Final Bramhall Lane won 5:0 in a very close match against Brabyns played at Brabyns..

Cups will be engraved as soon as possible ready for presentation to the Winners at the AGM. Going forward to the 2017 season, in order that all clubs have time to plan and arrange fixtures including the August semi final period, we will need to take a firmer approach with deadlines in the various rounds.

Steve Thompson, Acton Cup & Plate Organiser”

9.2 The Rose Bowl Mixed Doubles Report: This was covered and adopted in the Secretary's Report earlier in this meeting.

Proposed by Alderley Edge and seconded by Woodside, the Tournament Secretary Report was adopted.

10) Elections of Officers:

The Secretary read out the nominations, which included the present Committee, however, Mr. Steve Thompson was

being nominated as the new Chairman, (Mr. Peel having already stepped down), as well as Tournament Secretary. Mrs Bowen advised there was a new nomination for Committee Member from Amanda Robison of Cheadle (Kingsway). It was with the consent of the Meeting that these nominations were taken “en-bloc” and approved. Mr. Thompson being elected as Chairman took over the “Chair” from the Acting Chairman, Ms. Anne Marie Groarke. He thanked her for guiding the proceedings of the Meeting thus far.

At this point there was a brief break for two Presentations, first of all to present an inscribed plaque and gift to Bob Peel for 29 years outstanding service to the League and secondly, presentation of the Divisional Trophies & Plaques to the Champions for 2016 season.

11 Proposals:

11.1 Changes to Rule 14.1.1 and 14.1.2 as listed on the Proposal Supplement and put forward by the Executive Committee: It was with the agreement of the Meeting that these should be taken ‘en-bloc’ This was met by the unanimous approval of the Meeting and therefore incorporated into the League Rules accordingly.

11.2 Changes to Rule 15.3.1; Rule 15.4 and to Rule 23 as per the Proposal Supplement. Following a discussion it was with the agreement of the Meeting that these items be voted for ‘en-bloc’. The changes were unanimously approved by the Meeting for inclusion into the League Rules.

12: Short Format (2-Rounds) , Appendix F in the League Handbook:

As the Appendix is not part of the League Rules, the changes were advisory from the Executive Committee. However, there were some changes to the printed supplement. In new Rule 5 the word “only” was to be inserted between “must” and “consist”. In item 3 the following had to be added to complete the sentence “ before 31st. May or after 31st. July”. Notice of this change had recently been emailed to clubs. There was a discussion on the last item to suggest that the 31st. May should be changed to around mid-May. The Executive Committee would consider the change.

The Executive Committee are considering changing the Short Format to allow all couples to play each other, in other words for the first round the equally ranked couples played 2 sets against each other, for the remainder only 1 set being played thus allowing each couple to have played all 3 couples of the opposition. Discussion ensued, the Executive Committee would give further thought to the matter.

13) Any Other Business:

13.1: Premier Division Relegation: The representative from Mere suggested that it was not good for one third of the Division be relegated and suggested that a “play-off” be re-considered. The Executive Committee will review the situation for the 2017 AGM.

13.2 Hosts – Davenport L.T.C.: Thanks were offered to Davenport for kindly hosting this Meeting and to Marjorie Turner, Executive Committee Member, in particular, for arranging the cheese and wine refreshments which were about to be enjoyed.

There being no other business the Chairman brought the Meeting to a close with thanks to all for attending.

..... Chairman

.....Date