

# EXETER AND DISTRICT TENNIS LEAGUE

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

*Wednesday 7 February 2018 at 7.00 pm at Buckerell Lodge*

### MINUTES

The Meeting was attended by approximately 36 people, including representatives of all but 5 of the clubs, and members of the Committee. Andy Malcolm welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Roger Wilkins (President) and Woodbury Park who are joining the league for the first time.

**1. Apologies**

Tiverton  
Budleigh  
Trevor Blatchford - Committee member

**2. Minutes of AGM on Wednesday 8 February 2017**

The minutes were agreed unanimously and signed by the Chairman, Andy Malcolm.

**3. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

**4. Presentation of Trophies**

The trophies for the 2017 summer league were presented by Roger Wilkins. He said that he is very privileged to have been invited to be President and how tremendous it was to have 107 teams in the summer league last year, with over 1000 players registered and under a thousand playing in the league last summer. He commended David Lloyd on only losing two matches during the season and winning 7 successive promotions. He also commended Torquay A ladies for winning Div 1 for the third time in a row. He congratulated everyone who contributed to the success of the league. Andy Malcolm congratulated all teams who won trophies.

**Trophy winners for Summer League 2017**

Division	Men	Ladies
1	Victoria Park A	Torquay A
2	David Lloyd Exeter A	Newton St Cyres A
3	Willand A	Exeter G & C Club B
4	Willand B	Newton Abbot A
5	Exeter G & C Club B	Okehampton A
6	Exeter G & C Club C	Torquay C
7	David Lloyd Exeter C	
8	Teignmouth B	

## 5. Chairman's report

Andy Malcolm read his report (Annex 1).

## 6. Treasurer's report and confirmation of fees

Catriona Batty circulated her report in advance of the meeting. She proposed that the summer league fees remain at £7 per team and winter league fees at £5 per team. This was seconded by Peter Clarke and carried unanimously. There were no questions.

## 7. Match Secretary's report

Maureen Sowerby read her report (Annex 2). She reminded clubs that registrations forms should be **fully completed** and returned by **7th April 2018 or first match, if earlier**. Registrations will only be accepted if full match dates and players are recorded on the official form.

The fixtures will be sent out to club contacts this week. Club Contacts must ensure that all information is passed to the team captains and that they are aware of the rules, listed on the league website.

Andy Malcolm thanked Maureen for all her hard work and the tremendous job she is doing for the league.

## 8. Composition of divisions for 2018

Maureen Sowerby published the suggested composition of divisions on the website prior to the meeting.

**Men's:** There are four new teams: Woodbury Park A and B, David Lloyd D and EG&CC E. Maureen Sowerby proposed that Woodbury Park's two teams join the league and this was seconded by Peter Clarke and agreed unanimously. Chagford has withdrawn their men's team from Div 6 due to shortage of players. Sidford A and Newton Abbot B applied for re-election to the league, both having conceded matches last season, and this was agreed unanimously. Maureen Sowerby proposed that the suggested composition of divisions remain and this was agreed unanimously.

**Ladies:** There are two new teams: Willand and Samford B. Tunnels and Chagford have withdrawn their teams from Div 1 and Div 3, respectively due to shortage of players. Darryl Bass appealed to clubs to make an exception for Sidford to remain in Div 2 as they are very short of players. They are to be promoted to Div 1 being third last year in Div 2. However, clubs were not in favour of this as it is a competitive league and against the league rules. Andy Malcolm proposed the two top divisions remain as published on the website and this was agreed by all clubs, except Sidford. The suggested composition of divisions published on the website were agreed unanimously.

## 9. Devon LTA

Andy Malcolm is a member of the Devon Council and Devon LTA'S treasurer. He read his report (see annex 1).

## 10. Election of Officers and Committee

The following Officers and Committee Members were willing to stand again. Proposed by Andy Malcolm and seconded by Phil Plummer and their re-election was unanimously agreed.

Chairman: Andy Malcolm

Hon Treasurer: Catriona Batty

Hon General Secretary: Nicki Keele

Match Secretary: Maureen Sowerby

Winter Match Secretary: Rosemary Browne

Committee: Joan Bolden, Peter Clarke, Steve Rattlidge and Trevor Blatchford

## 11. Proposals for changes to rules

The following proposed rule changes and rewording were circulated in advance of the meeting:

### Rule change proposed by the League Committee

- o 14) Promotion and Relegation shall be:
  - a) Automatic two up and two down in all divisions. **Except when there are only 5 teams in consecutive divisions in which case it will only be one up and one down between these divisions.**

The above additional wording in red was proposed by Andy Malcolm, seconded by Newton Abbott and agreed unanimously.

### Rule change proposed by Exwick

*To revert back to one up one down between divisions 1 and 2.*

- 14) Promotion and Relegation shall be:
  - a) Automatic two up and two down in all divisions.

The above proposed change was discussed fully by clubs. Phil Plummer proposed and no clubs seconded, therefore there will be no rule change.

## 11. Any other business

- James Temple (Exeter Golf and Country Club) has offered to run two pre-season graded tournaments on Sunday 25th March. Ladies in the morning and men in the afternoon. Everyone is welcome. Maureen Sowerby will send out information which James asked clubs to pass on to captains etc.
- Exmouth are running an open men's tournament on Sunday 24th June (10.30 am - 3.00 pm, including food) for 24 men, Div 2 standard and lower. Application forms will be available.
- Sidford are putting on events to celebrate their 70th anniversary. Maureen Sowerby offered to put details on the Exeter and District league website.
- Tipton revisited the issue of clubs not allocating their players to teams in merit order. Maureen Sowerby monitors this issue closely. A deadline date for registering players, possibly last day of June, was discussed. The committee will meet and discuss this issue further as a possible rule change for next year.

Andy Malcolm thanked everyone for attending the meeting and wished all clubs a successful season.

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm.

## **ANNEX 1**

### **Chairman's Report**

This past summer was a good one for the league with very few postponements due to the weather. The number of teams entered in the league has stayed roughly constant. 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

We've had no major issues during the year.

We do have some requests of team captains to allow for smoother running of the league –

- Summer scorecards – scans and pictures are acceptable as long as there is no colour border around the scorecard and the scans are legible (scan should be black on white not grey on grey). Any scorecards not meeting these criteria will be treated as incomplete and subject to a fine.
- We are producing a best practice guide for captains including timescales for match cancellations (between 4pm (or equivalent) and the time the opposition leave for a match) and when captains must inform the match secretary of a postponement.
- If a stand-in captain is used please make sure opposition have their contact details and they know the rules.
- If teams are not planning to stay for a post-match meal please let the opposition know so no food is prepared. Also, please try and stay after matches for a sociable chat. We would hope tennis is a social endeavour and would remind everyone that tennis should be played in a fair and sporting manner.
- Also, we would ask that mobile devices be turned off and not used during matches

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

Andy Malcolm

### **Devon LTA Report**

This is the annual report about the activity of Devon LTA and our part therein.

The county is still employing Chris Bawden as County administrator and most county related queries should go to her. The county now has a performance coordinator (Will McNally) who is driving the new junior county landscape on behalf of the county.

Also, having lost £40,000 in the last 2 years the county made a profit of £9,000 this year.

Wimbledon tickets. Once again, the number of tickets will be based on the number of opted-in members. You need to remember that members must opt-in each year, it does not automatically roll over to the next year. If your members are having problems registering online, try the LTA helpline on 020 8487 7000. Remember the deadline date is February 23<sup>rd</sup>

Changes are coming for clubs regarding welfare officers and safeguarding. BE AWARE.

Andy Malcolm

## Annex 2

### Match Secretary's Report

## Exeter and District Lawn Tennis League Match Secretary Report A.G.M. February 7<sup>th</sup> 2018

There were 604 men and 450 ladies registered to play in the league last year  
1315 matches were completed by September 30<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately 1 match ran out of time and could not be completed before the end of the season.

Fines were necessary as follows

### Results Ladies:-

Div	Champions	Runners-up	Relegated	Fined 4/8pts	Fined 2pts	Late	Unf.
				No team	Unreg.player	S/C	Matches
1	Torquay A	Victoria Park A	Bud Salt A & Kingsteignton A	Exeter Golf Club A			
2	Newton St Cyres A	Exmouth A	Chagford & Ottery St Mary				
3	Exeter Golf Club B	Torquay B	S.Peverell A & NSC's B	Cranford			
4	Newton Abbot A	Sidmouth B	David Lloyd B & Teign Valley A		B.Salt B x 2	David Lloyd B fined 1pt for 2 <sup>nd</sup> photo	
5	Okehampton A	Dawlish	Bovey Tracey & Exeter Golf Club D		Exeter Golf Club D		
6	Torquay C	Exmouth B	Re-apply S.Peverell B	David Lloyd C	Sidmouth C	Kingsteignton B	

### Mens:-

Div	Champions	Runners-up	Relegated	Fined 4/8pts	Fined 2pts	Late	Unf.
				No team	Unreg/illegal player	S/C	Matches
1	Victoria Park A	Bud.Salterton A	Dawlish A & Torquay B	Torquay A Torquay B x 2 (12pts)		B.Salt A (7 over 14 days late) S.Pev A	

2	David Lloyd A	Victoria Park B	V.Park C & Torquay C		V.Park C		
3	Willand A	Seaton A	NSC's A & David Lloyd B		David Lloyd B	David Lloyd B x2	Exmouth A v N.Abbot A not played
4	Willand B	Teignmouth A	Bovey Tracey A & Okehampton	Bovey A & Okehampton	Willand B		
5	Exeter Golf Club B	Kingsteignton B	Sidmouth A & Chagford	Chagford	Chagford		
6	Exeter Golf Club C # See below	V.Park E	Teign Valley & Seaton B	Teign Valley & Seaton B x 2 (12pts) # See below		NSC's B #See below	
7	David Lloyd C	Sidmouth B	Kingsteignton D & Cranford				
8	Teignmouth B	Exeter Golf Club D	Re-apply Newton Abbot B & Sidford(results expunged)	N.Abbot B x 2 (12pts) Sidford x 3(20pts) Exwick B		Exwick B	

Exeter Golf Club C # 2 Not offering dates to V.P.E in time (30days)

NSC's B# 2 Registration form not received on time

Teign Valley # 2 Registration form not received on time

Sadly this year we have had to say Goodbye to Chagford club. They have been in the league for many years, but this year they just haven't got enough players available to field any teams.

A very warm welcome to a new club, Woodbury Park Golf Club organised by James Isaacs and we wish them well in their first season with us. The bonus for teams in division 8 is that they get to play twice at a most beautiful and historic place.

**Registration forms** 2 teams fined for not sending in their registration form before the deadline and 2 teams fined for not offering dates within the time allowed for rained off matches.

Please fill out all parts of the Registration form and make sure you send it in before the deadline. That means captains details, and names of players to register as well as filling in your fixtures.

Email received from a couple of teams, with registrations only and no fixtures entered. When one finally came in 2 fixtures were down the wrong way! This is why I ask you to put down the dates you think the matches are on and I can then check them for you.

**Score cards** still being sent in as photos which I cannot accept due to time and cost of printing out. Once the season is in full swing I sometimes receive up to 20 score cards a day . I am sorry but I do not have the time to edit photos, crop them, lighten them, then print them, all before checking them and then uploading them into database.

Several teams fined for not sending in their score sheet on time despite my emailing out asking for them. Some captains do not even have the courtesy to reply to my emails however, once I mention there will now be a fine, suddenly they respond. On one occasion emails went back and forth 15 times just to get one correct score card. One captain insisted that she had posted the card on the day of the match, but after several emails 2 weeks later asking for it and again threatening the fine, it turned up the next day postmarked with the previous days date on.

On 3 occasions the home captains went on holiday with them in their bags! On another occasion, captain had had internet problems and only just realised score card was still in unsent folder.

A score card received from one (Torquay A) captain for a match v (Exeter G & C A). had no names entered for the away team. Note on card says visitors left without putting the names on and also without signing the card.

**Postponing matches:** Quoted rule 19 (19) *Clubs with two or more teams in the same Division must complete their inter-club fixtures not later than 31st May. No points will be awarded for matches played after this date.* email received from Torquay Ladies D to say match with Torquay C has been postponed because it might rain!!! and now they are playing it on May 31<sup>st</sup> indoors.

Also one received email saying that V.Park D v C has been called off due to damp courts. Quoted rule 19 and suddenly its back on!!!!

I had several emails stating that 'I have agreed with the opposition captain to re-arrange our match next week as .....' Or 'need to re-arrange my match as the courts are double booked!!!

**Reminder** – After April 7<sup>th</sup>, you can only re-arrange a match if it gets rained off, otherwise you risk forfeiting the match and getting a 4point fine.

If your match is rained off, then you need to offer the opposition 3 dates in 3 separate weeks as per rule 18. On one occasion, 3 dates were given out, but the opposition captain said she couldn't accept them and then proceeded to give the home captain her own 3 dates. So if anyone has trouble like this when offering the dates, let me know. Don't forget to offer them within the time span given. Please also double check that you have courts available when offering the dates – twice last

year courts were double booked, which meant the team had to find alternative courts for their match.

**Playing a let:-** I had email re playing a let between Kings A and V.Park A ladies. Copy of the LTA rule 23 was sent to both captains.

### 23. THE LET

In all cases when a let is called, except when a service let is called on a second service, the whole point shall be replayed.

*Case 1: When the ball is in play, another ball rolls onto court. A let is called. The server had previously served a fault. Is the server now entitled to a first service or second service?*

*Decision: First service. The whole point must be replayed.*

PLEASE NOTE – Received report that during a match (Ottery v David Lloyd) players were constantly texting/on phone during change overs.

Once the divisions are accepted, I can get on with doing the fixtures, I hope to get them out before the East Devon league fixtures meeting.

These will be sent to the club contacts, so it is up to them to get them out to the captains of the teams.

Please study them and if any matches fall on dates when you perhaps have players away or other events at your club, you are allowed to re-arrange them. If you need to change any, please fill out the Alterations form and send it in. However after April 7<sup>th</sup> all matches are locked in and no matches can be re-arranged except within the rules.

After April 7<sup>th</sup> I will upload the fixtures to the website. These will be on the Results page and you will be able to download a copy for yourself or players can download them as well.. The dates will not be entered into the grid as per last year.

Thanks for your support during last year and for the lovely emails – although some were not so nice this year. I hope you all have an enjoyable seasons tennis. Any problems, please do get in touch.

Thanks also to my colleagues on the committee for their support.

**Maureen Sowerby**