

MINUTES OF THE 86TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE APSLEY LEAGUE

Held on Wednesday 18th January 2017 at The Atherley Bowling Club, Hill Lane, Southampton.
Miss M Houlton in the Chair

Clubs represented were Bassett, Compton & Shawford, David Lloyd - Southampton, Glebian, JEM Tennis Hamble, Kingsgate, Lee on the Solent, Littleton, Portswood, Riverside, Romsey & Abbey, Sandeheath, South Hants, Swanmore, Thornden, Totton & Eling, Twyford, Virgin Active Hampshire Club, Warsash, Waterside, Wellow.

1. Apologies:

Ruth Spencer, Mark Jackson (both VA Hampshire Tennis) & Neil Webb (Lymington).

2. Read and Confirm Minutes:

The minutes were adopted and signed.

3. Matters Arising: None

4. Hon Secretary's Report and presentation of trophies:

Winchester A retained the Premier Division Shield, going through the season winning all their matches and dropping only 8 events during the eight-match season, the Runner-up team was Warsash A this season, although they were level with Riverside A on 11 points.

Only one of the promoted teams, South Hants A, retained their Premiership status, with the two relegated teams being Winchester B & Bassett A and they will be replaced with Division 1 champion Totton & Eling A, who won all their matches, dropping only 7 events, also promoted is Lymington A, who finished on the same points as VA Hampshire Tennis B.

Division 2 was won by VA Hampshire Tennis C, who finished level on 11 points with second place team Sandeheath.

The Champions of Division 3 was Lee on the Solent, who won 7 matches, drawing the other, they will be joined in Division 2 next season by Jem Tennis A.

Division 4 was split into two divisions, namely 4a & 4b, with only the top club from each table being promoted to Division 3 next year, in Division 4a it came down to the last scheduled match of the season between Romsey & Abbey A and Totton & Eling B, a close match resulted in Romsey winning promotion. Division 4b was won by Jem Tennis B, who dropped only one point during the season.

One team fielded a player who was illegally to play for that team after playing in higher teams 3 times, the score-line wasn't changed because the player lost their games.

There were 7 Walk-Over's given during the season, one in the Premier Division, two in Division 2, one in Division 3, two in Division 4a and one in Division 4b.

The two in Division 4a were by the same team, Lymington B, and as this is against the League Rules, normally the team would be relegated to the bottom division, but as they were already in the bottom division, so it was decided in the season-end's Committee Meeting, that Lymington would not be allowed to enter their B team for the next season.

A small discussion followed about the size of the bottom divisions and the number of matches being played by the teams in them, but it was decided that the format of the split Division 4's be continued and if after a number of years, a better solution to solve the problem of not having a full bottom division can be found, we could revise the League structure then.

The presentation of trophies followed:

Premier Division: Winchester A
Division 1: Totton & Eling A
Division 2: VA Hampshire Tennis C
Division 3: Lee on the Solent
Division 4a: Romsey & Abbey A
Division 4b: Jem Tennis B

5. Report of committee meeting:

The Chair gave a brief report on the meeting, but the main points were:

It was brought to the committee's attention that Lyndhurst had said they were unable to field a team on the Monday prior to a match but to rescind this later in the week. The match did go ahead. The committee's position on this for the future was that you cannot change your minds like this – calling off is final. It is not a rule change position but the principle to be brought up at the AGM. The issue of start times was raised as some clubs have to vacate their premises by a set time, while other clubs play on 2 courts.

It was decided that unless a club nominates for logistical reasons a different start time, which cannot be before 12.30pm, the start time is 2pm.

The clubs affected are Twyford, Sandheath, Sarisbury Green, Totton and Eling, Jem Tennis.

A number of other clubs also requested that their start time be allowed to be revised and after a discussion, it was decided that if the League were informed before the start of the season (and therefore be able to be widely published this fact to other clubs), that clubs could start their home matches before the standard start time of 2.00pm.

6. Correspondence:

Winchester have amended & resubmitted their proposal regarding a 10-point final set tiebreak, see item 9 on the Agenda.

7. Election of Officers and committee:

The following were duly proposed, seconded and elected

Chair	Miss M Houlton
Secretary	Mr G Prince
Communications	Mr K Granger
Ex Officio	Mrs A Bassam (SLTA Treasurer), "SLTA Secretary"
Premier Division	Mrs C Johnson (Thornden) Mrs L White (Riverside)
Division 1	Mrs R Spencer (VA Hampshire Club) Mr. D Pickering (Wellow)
Division 2	Mrs J Speirs (Littleton) Mr N Challis (Lee on the Solent)
Division 3	Ms F Gimonet (JEM Tennis) Mr J Farley (Glebian)
Division 4a	Mrs J Taverner (Romsey & Abbey) Mrs K Downie (Warsash)
Division 4b	Mrs T Whiting (David Lloyd) Mr S Doherty (Swanmore)

8. Arrangements for next season:

A printed sheet was given to each club, showing 4 divisions of 9 teams (8 matches), with Divisions 4a & 4b having 6 & 5 teams (teams to have 5/4 matches in the season).

This allocation was because although David Lloyd have added a third team, three clubs have lost their second team (Jem Tennis, Littleton & Lymington), making a nett overall loss of 2 teams in the League.

9. AOB:

Winchester Tennis Club had in writing proposed the following Rule Change:

If the last match of the Men's/Ladies' Doubles Round gets to a set all, after all the other 3 matches have completed and both captains and all 4 players agree, then a 10-point tiebreaker can be played instead of a 3rd set. The 10-point tiebreak will count as a set on the scorecard but only as 1 game.

No-one from Winchester Tennis Club was at the meeting to put their reasons, but a general discussion was held among the floor and from the Officer's table (the Apsley Committee did not endorse the rule change, because it is seen as being dual standards and also every game counts when promotion and relegation are tightly contested at the end of the season.)

A vote was taken after the discussion finished, the proposal was rejected unanimously with only 4 clubs absenting from the vote.

The Secretary, also informed the meeting that clubs should allow enough court time to complete the Apsley matches, this would alleviate any pressure on players to complete the final matches, a figure of four hours were suggested, if there were four courts allocated for the match.

The Hants & IoW dates were given to the meeting (May: 6 & 20, June: 3 & 17, July: 1 & 15), which are the usual 1st & 3rd Saturdays in the month.

Clubs to inform Geoff Prince dates they do not want matches on, by 6th of February, plus any revision to their home start time.

Fixtures will then be available by end of February.

Miss Houlton thanked Ken and Geoff for their work.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.