

EXETER AND DISTRICT LAWN TENNIS LEAGUE

Committee Meeting held at Victoria Park Tennis Club

Tuesday 18 Oct 2011 at 7.00 pm

DRAFT MINUTES FOR WEBSITE *(to be confirmed at next Committee Meeting)*

Catriona Batty, Joan Bolden, Rosemary Browne, Phil Hancock, Dave Knightley, Andy Malcolm (Chairman), Maureen Sowerby, Roger Wilkins

1. **Apologies** Peter Clarke, Wendy Smith
2. **Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 15 Feb 11** Agreed and signed by Chairman
3. **Matters arising from 15 Feb meeting** None
4. **Report by Match Secretary on Summer League season (and any other matters)**
Maureen presented her report that will be given to the AGM. In discussion it was agreed that we should draft out a proposal for rule changes to deal with (a) clubs down-registering players after the higher team have completed their fixtures and (b) teams offering dates for re-arranged fixtures upon which their opponents already have matches. Drafts will be considered at the next Committee Meeting. It was, however, agreed not to follow up the suggestion that if a player is registered for a team, they must play their first match for that team before playing up. The Chairman thanked Maureen for the tremendous work that she did to make the Summer league a success.
5. **Report by Winter League Match Secretary** Rosemary apologised for delay in getting full details up on the web. She had been away for some of August and there were quite a number of discrepancies between teams in fixture dates that had needed resolution. She welcomed the fact that most score cards were coming in as scanned emails. Tables should be provided to Maureen in the next few days. The Chairman thanked Rosemary for taking on the Winter League and for the progress she had made.
6. **Report by General Secretary** Roger reported on exchanges that he had had with Matthew Wheaton from Newton St Cyres. Matthew had prepared records back to 1997 of all Summer League tables and also tables recording the divisions in which teams played over the years. Roger has extracted records of division winners going back over a longer period. It was agreed that when the new website is set up we should include this archival material. Roger was asked to thank Matthew for the work he had done and to liaise with him to get it in an appropriate form to go, in due course, on to the web.

7. **Report by Treasurer** Catriona reported that the financial situation looks good, the current bank balance being 1,935.98. She pointed out that major items of expenditure, including trophies and engraving, are yet to be incurred.
8. **Questionnaire** The response to the questionnaire had been very good and many comments and suggestions had been made. Roger was thanked for collating the responses. The responses were discussed question by question and actions agreed are noted below.

Q1 8 teams maximum per Division Strong support (93%) for continuing current policy

Q2 6 teams minimum per Division 31% considered this was too few. The responses encouraged us to continue with existing policy of trying wherever possible to avoid having Divisions with only 6 teams.

Q3 Entry above bottom Division. The responses and comments were very mixed with 52% agreeing that this should be possible and 41% opposed. Support for change seemed to be strongest amongst the teams in the lower Divisions that had been playing against David Lloyd, where there had been some miss-matches. Whilst the Committee are sympathetic to the problem and wish to see teams in Divisions of the right standard, it is very difficult to work out appropriate criteria. It was agreed that any proposal made would allow accelerated promotion or entry at a higher level only in circumstances in which there is a vacant spot in the higher Division (so that all clubs that have earned promotion through first or second place would still be promoted). There could be a strong case when two new teams from a single club are entered for one of them to go into a higher Division than the other. Roger agreed to try and draft out a rule for discussion at the next Committee meeting, but it was felt that we may not be able to produce a satisfactory formula.

Q5 East and West Divisions Opinion in the responses was very divided with 28% favouring introduction in lower divisions now, 31% only if more division had to be created and 31% opposed to the idea. There wasn't a clear difference in the response for clubs further from or closer to Exeter. Several replies had expressed regret that using E and W divisions would restrict the range of clubs and surfaces that would be encountered over the years by teams in split divisions. It was agreed that we should follow the middle line and only start east and west divisions if more need to be created.

Q6 Earlier deadline for applications. Substantial support (59%) for this suggestion. Agreed to implement for the coming season.

Q7 Penalty for incorrect scorecards. General support (61%) for this suggestion, but many comments that should be imposed only after a warning and several suggesting only if the error made it difficult to interpret the match score. Agreed to draft a proposal for a rule change with fine (1 or 2 points?) for each offence after a warning is given.

Q8 Penalty for withdrawal before matches played. General support (69%) with many suggestions as to nature of penalty. Agreed to draft a proposal for a rule change with (a) imposition of a fine of 3 times the team registration fee for any team that is entered and then withdrawn and (b) limitation to the number of teams that can be entered the following year to the number that played in the present year. The

importance of being able to sustain the number of teams entered to be stressed on the entry form (even before a rule change is implemented).

Q9 Communications Considered to be good. Committee agreed to suggestion that minutes of Committee Meetings should be posted on the web. This to be implemented when website revised. Also agreed to suggestion that postcodes for courts should be put on the club details page. Will request this information on the entry form.

Q10-13 Website Much appreciated. See Agenda items 6 and 9.

Q15 Ladies in Mens League With only 37% of respondents (only 21 % of ladies)in favour, the Committee agreed not to take any action.

Q18-19 Other comments A number of the comments made were discussed including (a) teams promoted through reorganisation should have option for going up or not [not supported], (b) setting up an introduction league aimed at new players [not supported], (c) playing up if two teams from one club in same division [not supported], (d) reduce need for pre-registration [not supported], (e) matches only on weekdays [not supported], (f) make provision of tea and biscuits only as default position [not supported], (g) all clubs having scoreboards [not supported].

Roger agreed to provide feedback to Club Contacts on this discussion and the actions that are being taken by the Committee. He agreed also to draft rule changes where required for discussion at the next Committee meeting.

9. **Website** Maureen reported that she had been exploring possibility of getting the website re-vamped and had been discussing this with Dave. It was agreed that improvement was needed to provide more pages and also to facilitate alteration to the contents of parts of the site by some authorised people in addition to Maureen. Various approaches were suggested including the update being a student project. It was agreed that Maureen should continue her discussion with her contact Paul and could spend up to 100 without coming back to the Committee.
10. **Devon LTA** The Chairman reported the need for the league to amend its rule relating to LTA to add something like .. and all players must abide by the LTA code of conduct. This was agreed.
11. **Dates and venues for spring Committee Meeting** The following schedule was agreed: (a) Request by Roger for entries to go out in first week of January (b) Entries to be returned to Maureen by 27 Jan, (c) League allocations to be considered at Committee Meeting on 31 Jan [at Victoria Park, starting time to be confirmed], (d) Proposed allocations to be put on web with comments to be made by 13 Feb, (e) decisions on comments to be made by email exchange with Committee, (f) Maureen prepares and circulates fixtures by first week in March.

Any other business Agreed to put information on website about Jack Findel-Hawkins (a Cranford player) success in becoming national U16 and U18 doubles champion.

Roger Wilkins.