

2023 A&DTL AGM Minutes

Chesham Bois 20/11/2023

1) Present- Committee – Paul Vicary (Chesham Bois) Bev Wilson (Haddenham) Rebecca Rose (Tring) Mike Piercy (Princes Risborough) Nicola Cliffe (Wendover) Ann Green (Thame) Lee Widra (Prestwood) Richard Keightley (Oving)

Mike Joy (Cublington) Heather Lay (Prestwood) Andy Thompson (Cheddington) Paul Lambert (Wing) David Wright (Aylesbury) Jenny King (Lacey Green) Ellen Moret (Halton) Gill Rowe (Halton)

Apologies-Ilan Finlay (Widmer End) Tracey Mackey (Berkhamsted) Anne Piggford (Bierton) Sheenagh Cogger (Tring) Ali Lyons (Bovingdon) Jean Barnett (Cublington)

2) Minutes from last year's meeting-The minutes from last years meeting were approved and signed.

3) Voting in the Committee-The existing Committee all agreed to stand again. Lee Widra offered to be Vice chairman as this was vacant and Richard Keightley joined as a committee member. The Committee was Proposed by Andy Thompson (Cheddington)and seconded by Mike Joy (Cublington).

4) Finance Report-Prior to the meeting the secretary had distributed the accounts. The loss this year was due to 5 lots of grants totalling £2500. The Presentation evening is the other major expense. Nicky Cliffe the secretary confirmed the signed, audited accounts as presented.

5) Chairman's Report-This had been distributed prior to the meeting. Paul added his thanks for all their hard work to Tracey Strong and Pam Munday Cripps who had stepped down from the Committee.

6) Divisional Secretaries Report- I enclose these in full as the link I had put on prior to the meeting was not complete.

Divisional Secretary Report - Rebecca

Affiliation

As usual there have been a few LTA affiliation issues at the beginning of this season and the summer season. They seem to be getting less though and the LTA sort them out very quickly. I only take those to the LTA who I know are not new players- I check the last two seasons. Otherwise, the player needs to affiliate themselves to their clubs. Captains seem to be more aware of how to do this. Mike and I rewrote some bits of the captain's guide (on the website) and it appears to be easier to understand now. Here is the link to the captains' guide on the website.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/15Nsuoo-U7XaBC0gGO9S5qj5Gnf9j7vtZ/edit>

Response from the LTA about affiliation problems was –

The LTAs API (link through which data is sent) was down when the club renewed their members membership, so the affiliation has not synced to their competition profile”.

They are working to resolve it. Another further reminder about affiliation:

Rule 1 states that all players must be LTA registered and have linked their account to the venue. The captains guide states clearly that a captain must *not* search under “all clubs”. A club would be fielding an ineligible player in this instance if they do not show under the clubs list of players. The match result would not stand in this instance if this was not resolved. We are aware of this happening at one club (one captain) but this is now resolved.

Walkover/ one player rule

This is the first winter season with the new stricter rule: 2 walkovers and 1 one-pair match, 1 walkover and 2 one-pair matches, or 3 one-pair matches. Hopefully all captains have read all the rules. This was also sent as a reminder to all captains at the beginning of this season along with other rules/ procedures and I also email the captain to remind them after their first.

David Wright thought that the walkover rule could be unfair if other teams benefitted from getting walkovers. Rebecca said that a sentence had been added in the rules that promotion/relegation was at the discretion of the divisional secretaries which would take this into account. Some captains are allowing rearrangements of dates, and some are not. We do have to leave this up to the captains which obviously does not allow complete consistency. Currently so early in the season, most captains are allowing a match to be rescheduled if they have been given sufficient notice. Bucks League does not allow any walkovers, but ADTL have no intention of following suit.

Rebecca asked for feedback on extending Rule 27 which currently states:

If a match cannot be completed due to the state of the court, weather or failing light, then a new date should be arranged and a match replayed in its entirety, unless, either side has won a minimum of five sets, in which case that team will be deemed the winner and any un-played sets will be declared void.

We would like to keep this first sentence the same and then add:

Exceptions to this can be:

- a) If a match is stopped at 3-3 or 2-2 and *both* captains agree to a draw.
- b) If play is stopped in the final set and the score is 4-3 or 3-4 and *both* captains agree to enter the score as it stands.

This gives the captains more flexibility in avoiding replaying a whole match if it does not finish in those circumstances but *only* if both captains agree. It should help with match scheduling problems. Much of the committee and those present were in favour of these changes. Richard Keightley asked if the LTA website would accept a 4-3 score and Mike replied yes but you would need to disable a setting, Ellen Moret was worried that there could be problems if there was a difference of opinion. Paul thanked people for their feedback.

Entering results

The new 72-hour rule has improved efficiency: I am chasing less. Another reminder please that we also need comments within 72 hours if a match did not go ahead with the reason so that we know what's going on.

Rearranging matches

Please ensure that you have read rule 16 regarding this...rearrangements must be made within 21 days of the original match date. This is to ensure matches are replayed in good time and we do not get a bottle neck at the end of the season. There followed a discussion about rearrangements. After the bad weather in November there was already a problem with unplayed matches.

Playing down

The new rule regarding not playing down in the first match has gone well. We would urge captains to always ask players to play up rather than down unless absolutely necessary.

Walkovers

We changed the way walkovers are added so that a team will get the points but not all the sets/ games which is much fairer. No players name needs entering details are in the updated captains guide.

Overall, everything is running smoothly. Thank you as ever for everyone's support.

Mike's Report

Winter 2022/23 season

The weather was averagely wintry but we finished without too much trauma. Once again, some clubs left matches until the very end of the season and then were surprised to find it difficult to reorganise matches over the Easter period. 5 teams were withdrawn as they were unable to fulfill their matches.

Heather Lay asked if matches had to be on weekends in the Winter and weekdays in the Summer if there were lots of matches to reschedule and it was agreed that it didn't matter.

Summer 2023 season

The weather was kind, and we had few problems arranging league matches. 8 teams withdrew mid-season.

The KO Cup was a mixed success. We expanded the competition to 3 tiers and got an excellent 28 entries. However, captains struggled to understand and follow the rules. Some teams were disqualified for fielding ineligible players, and some teams found that they could not raise a team. We believe that we need to change the rules and make eligibility criteria the same as for the main league. Later in the meeting Rebecca will lead a discussion on how to get the best from the KO competitions. Next year I will set this up as a separate competition on the LTA website away from the main league and try to improve its presentation and set clearer deadlines on when matches must be played by. The good news was that the finals day was a great success despite bad rain – thanks to Rebecca for arranging everything, and thanks to Tring club for hosting.

Winter 2023/24 season

We took a positive decision to eliminate the larger leagues and to aim for a maximum of 7 teams in each division. Unfortunately, I made an admin error when setting up the divisions; to resolve this I had to create a separate Women's Div 8 league with 8 divisions – sorry for any inconvenience.

Growth in teams

We had new teams from existing clubs join the league (see table below). We had one approach from a new club outside our normal geographic area but declined their entry as we did not want to increase the distance teams have to travel

Season	No of clubs / teams	No of players
Summer 2022	182 teams from 30 clubs	1,148
Winter 2022/23	162 teams from 33 clubs	1,357
Summer 2023	199 teams from 30 clubs	1,286
Winter 2023/24	166 teams from 33 clubs	n/a

Fixtures Secretaries

The list of secretaries' contact details is on the ADTL website, If personnel change please notify us so we can keep it up to date. You can update the contacts for team captains yourselves through the LTA website. We have been asked to bring forward the date of the autumn Fixtures Secretaries meeting so next year we will aim for September 3. Thank you to Halton Club for allowing us to use their meeting room without charge.

Update on new LTA software- It is being trialled in Kent and is designed to be more mobile friendly when entering results.

5)Knockout Cup- Knockout Cup item

We asked for feedback on improving the Knockout Cup. Successes this year included finals day which went well and had a good attendance. And the addition of the Bronze Cup- we had good feedback about this.

Rebecca gave some stats about participation and withdrawals this year. After discussion it was agreed that things that might improve the competition are:

- Even more awareness
- Better organisation online and with deadlines to play matches
- Rule changes (already agreed by the committee) to bring the KO cup rules inline with the league: - a player must play for their “usual team” in the cup; no playing down
 - it will be ok for a player to “play up” once in a higher division

6) Grants Update- Paul

ADTL GRANT UPDATE FOR AGM 20 NOVEMBER 2023

Chesham 1879

Project: To help fund the building of a ramp to the clubhouse to enable wheelchair users to access the clubhouse independently

Update: No progress as quotes too high – new quotes being sourced

Naphill

Project: Funding for a range of taster tennis sessions, coaching support and open day, to encourage more local people to play at a club at the heart of its local community

Update: The £500 Adl grant awarded to Naphill was used to increase participation at the club (social and competitive) and make it easy and encourage non-members to “have a go” at the sport even if they don’t have any tennis equipment.

Tennis Rackets - these rackets available at the club for new and existing members. We have already used the rackets in several coaching sessions and have been invaluable.

Family Fun Day - 2nd July 2023 - A fun family inclusive tennis event from 5 yrs upwards. Club Coaches coordinated /supervised the event which saw the younger members playing mini tennis matches and the older junior members playing their matches on full court.

Team Tennis - ADL & Bucks Medley

To provide coaching for our existing teams. This have given confidence to team players - understanding doubles tactics / strategies.

ADL Mens 2nd team - New September 20023 this season

As a club and with the help of our coaches who have identified new and existing members who are keen to play competitive tennis. These players would not have normally been able to play in the existing men's team, so we have entered an additional men's team in the ADL. With the new season just started and now knowing who is in the squad, we are planning to give a series of coaching sessions to encourage confidence in our players , get them to understand the game better , strategy and tactics of tennis doubles .

Marsh Gibbon

Project: To support this small club rebuild its membership following Covid through an open day and rusty rackets / cardio tennis programmes / local primary school coaching.

Update: We organised a rusty rackets coaching course for new members to attract them to join the club in June- July 2023. The sessions ran over 6 weeks.

Plus we ran 6 weeks of coaching for Marsh Gibbon CE Primary School, Twyford School and Grendon Underwood School with 4 weeks at each of the schools and 2 weeks for each school at the club. The sessions were free to the children. 180 children took part in the coaching.

The grant was used to pay for the coach for all the sessions and some equipment.

The grant has helped to increase participation at the club. We have had 12 new members join the club since the coaching.

Long Marston

Project: Fund a cardio tennis programme at the club and provide low-cost rackets to increase local participation and community fitness levels

Update: Our plans to use the money have been put on hold until next year for three main reasons.

We had a water pipe burst earlier in the year completely wrecking our club house. Even with insurance covering most of the damage it has taken longer than expected to rebuild and some cost we have had to pick up.

We have also had two separate instances of vandalism to the floodlights. We think rocks from a sling but not sure. For this we did have to fund the entire amount of circa £1500 - 25% of our annual income.....

Finally, and not a tale of woe, our coach became Head Coach at High Wycombe. He still continues to run Rusty Rackets and Match playing coaching but having just started had to put the additional coaching on hold.

For a small club we have had what is hopefully a unique year!

Bledlow Ridge

Project: Support the upgrading of the club electricity system to facilitate floodlight for the club, which is one of few clubs that does not currently benefit from floodlights.

Update: We have raised £22,000 through grant awards and the remainder through an Auction of Promises last month, so we now have sufficient funds for the floodlights.

The work starts on 13th November and is expected to complete later that week.

The Committee was asked if we would do this regularly? Ann replied that it was a one off as we had excess funds. It had thrown up some problems, taken up a lot of time and would have legal implications if it happened regularly.

7) AOB

Club Sharing-Club Sharing Venture- Rebecca

The committee are keen to increase a sense of community within the clubs who play in the ADTL.

Friendly matches have contributed to this. 9 clubs are currently signed up to this and others are welcome- the more the merrier. So far this season we have had 3 friendly matches and 2 more are scheduled for November. These are for non-team players who would like a "match" experience in a less competitive way. Please contact Rebecca for more info.

Club sharing can be in any form: offering items that a club no longer have use for - this could be literally anything and can be free or for a small cost. Or asking for anything needed. Or sharing an idea e.g. recycling tennis balls. We had a brief discussion about this worldwide problem. Over 500 million tennis balls are produced each year, the majority of which end up in landfill. Each tennis ball takes 400 years to decompose.

Rebecca is currently looking at options but it's not looking good. If anyone has any ideas on this or anything else, please share.

So far we have had offers for various items eg score posts, lawnmower (possibly), privacy netting. A bulletin will go out in the new year plus we will be using Facebook and our website for this. Please contact Rebecca if you have anything to offer or need anything.

Paul Lambert from Wing added that their coach is looking for extra hours of work if any other club needs a coach.

Website- Bev has added a Roll of Honour to the website which has every winner of every cup since the league began. It is under the News feed.

Fixtures Meeting- Late Feb, date to be confirmed shortly.

Trophy Presentation evening with Live Music- Friday 12th April

Nicky has booked local band The Attention Seekers which have been recommended.

Jenny King from Lacey Green said that some of her members had asked why there were more matches in the Winter than the Summer- A combination of School holidays and many teams entering extra Leagues in the Summer was the reason. However, there is flexibility and if a team wants to avoid a certain month then they can ask their fixtures sec to do that.

Andy Thompson from Cheddington thanked the Committee for their hard work.

The meeting ended at 9.00pm