

**AGM of the Slazenger Cambridge and District Tennis Leagues  
held at Histon Recreation Centre on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

Those present:

| <u>Name</u>        | <u>Club</u>                   |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Richard Barnes     | Cambs LTA Exec,               |
| Keith Heron        | Cambs LTA Exec,               |
| Vernon Dudley      | League Sec, Histon            |
| Sylvia Morton      | League Committee, Gt Shelford |
| Janice Mills       | League Committee, David Lloyd |
| Alison McNaught    | League Committee, CLTC        |
| Colin Tait         | League Committee              |
| Mark Sanders       | Cambs LTA Exec, Gt Shelford   |
| Jim Fordham        | Exning                        |
| Ken Fish           | Exning                        |
| James Mills        | Cambridge LTC                 |
| Derek Burton       | Fulbourn                      |
| Liz Bull           | Newmarket                     |
| Tamryn Saby        | Comberton                     |
| Sabrina Ashley     | St Neots                      |
| Paul Ashley        | St Neots                      |
| John Holmes        | Royston                       |
| Emma Windred       | Royston                       |
| Malcolm Bentley    | Grove Saffron Walden          |
| Jane Fidler        | Histon                        |
| Stephen Hancock    | Gransdens                     |
| Patrick Hall       | Cocks & Hens                  |
| Sally Green        | Soham                         |
| David Willett      | Soham                         |
| Paul Hope          | Red Lodge                     |
| Stephen Richardson | Haslingfield                  |
| Kelvin Morton      | Risbygate                     |
| Gail Corcoran      | Risbygate                     |
| Darren Matthews    | Culford                       |
| Sue Griffin        | Milton                        |
| Barrie Crick       | Milton                        |
| Arif Kibria        | Cambourne                     |
| Debra Barker       | Papworth                      |
| Vicky Hawkins      | Orwell                        |
| Lydia Seymour      | Gt Shelford                   |
| Hamid Hejazi       | Gt Shelford et al             |
| Nick Clifford      | Huntingdon                    |
| Caroline Clifford  | Huntingdon                    |

38 in attendance, 23 clubs represented

No representatives from:

Buckden, Chatteris, Foxton, Girton, Steeple Morden, Victory BSE, Phennards, Virgin Active, Cottenham, RAF Wyton, Needingworth, Ely (12 clubs)

**Minutes of the AGM of the Slazenger Cambridge and District Tennis League  
held at Histon Recreation Centre on Wednesday 4th November 2015**

**1. Apologies for Absence** were received from the following: Matt Miller (Phennards), Shona Kent (Chatteris), Elaine Bowman (Orwell), Oli Daniels (David Lloyd) Brenda Pearce (Ely), Clive Wood & Rob Wood (RAF Wyton), Debbie Hall (Steeple Morden)

**2. Minutes of the 2014 AGM** were passed and signed as a correct record of the meeting.

**3. Matters arising** There were no matters arising.

**4. League Secretary's Report** Vernon summarised briefly his written report.

The Cambs League continues to be very active with competitions throughout every month of the year, bar January. He asked those present to show their thanks to "the three good ladies" who work with him to ensure their smooth running.

**Rules** 2 changes will be discussed in detail later.

**Fulfilling Fixtures:** The major strength of the league is that match dates are set and the vast majority of matches get played. In the summer league there were 17 w/o's out of a total of over 650 matches. Clubs experiencing problems should consider carefully before fielding teams if they might struggle to find players.

**New Friends/Lost Friends** Thetford, Gt Staughton and Bar Hill withdrew before the start of the summer season, but we welcome Chatteris to the 2016 season.

Numbers of teams entered continue to increase which suggests that the larger clubs are flourishing.

**Club Communications** Vernon thanked all the club contacts who receive and distribute League information sent via email. This is crucial to the smooth running of the League.

**Looking forward** The present Committee are willing to stand for one more year, but the Leagues will cease to run unless more volunteers come forward soon. A request for volunteers plus a summary of the work involved had been circulated with the AGM papers for club reps to show to their members.

Richard Barnes requested that by the deadline of the Cambs LTA AGM In March 2016, more volunteers are found so that the Leagues can continue.

**5. Treasurer's Report**

Copies of the Balance Sheet prepared by Colin Tait were circulated and accepted by the meeting.

**6. Election of Officers.**

The members of the Committee - Chairman Vernon Dudley, Sylvia Morton, Alison McNaught, Janice Mills and Colin Tait – were all willing to stand for yet another year and were re-elected en bloc, with grateful thanks.

**7. Review of all Competitions -2015**

Overall, we have 52 different divisions throughout the year and a total of 372 teams entering these, plus the 2 Grays Cup knock-out tournaments. 20 different clubs will collect a trophy this evening, with Cambridge (8) and Royston (7) collecting the biggest haul.

**Summer league** This continues to grow and Cambridge LTC are to be congratulated in retaining the Ladies and Mixed Div 1 titles and adding the Men's title in 2015.

The League breaks down as:

85 Men's teams in 11 divisions, 59 Ladies teams in 7 divisions, 57 Mixed teams in 9 divisions.

**Winter** 121 teams have entered this league which is currently running. The biggest growth has been in the Mixed League, prompted by the decision to schedule the mixed and men's/ladies matches on alternate weeks.

**Vets** The age limit was changed at last year's AGM to 45+ for both men and ladies. This Spring League has grown steadily and more than doubled in 10 years, now reaching 5 divisions. Though sadly numbers are down to 31 teams for 2016

**Super Seniors** This new league introduced three years ago for 60+ players, is struggling to take off but is popular with the present participants. Clubs are reminded that they can combine to enter a joint team, or invite a non-member to play for them. If division size drops below 5, home and away matches will be played.

**The Grays Cup** This knock-out tournament is reasonably well supported and produced an exciting final at Hills Road for a good number of supporters.

The Ladies final between Histon and St Neots was very close, level at half time, but with Histon just succeeding 5-3 to win the cup for the very first time.

Cambourne (div 3) had beaten holders Royston in the semi-final but Red Lodge (div 9) proved too strong in the final and took the cup with a 7-1 win.

The two Cups were re-presented by County President Keith heron, to Jane Fidler from Histon & Paul Hope from Red Lodge

Richard Barnes thanked Vernon for his comprehensive report and commented that Cambridgeshire has an incredible amount of competitive tennis on offer compared to other counties.

## **8. Formation of Divisions for Summer Leagues 2016**

### **Ladies' league**

63 team have entered which will form 7 divs of 8 and 1 of 7.

David Lloyd are entering a 4<sup>th</sup> team and have requested that it does not start in the bottom division as they have several strong players. After discussion it was agreed that the team had no proven record yet so must work up as other teams have had to.

Culford is another team which is playing in a division below its strength; the situation will be monitored and reviewed next year.

### **Men's League.**

Divisions 1-8 remain of 8 teams, 2 moving up and 2 down as usual. 3 teams have withdrawn from div 9 and 3 new teams have entered. This will give divs 9, 10 and 11 with 7 teams.

New clubs, Red Lodge and Culford, are too strong for the bottom divisions and there was discussion as to whether they could be jumped up towards a more appropriate division. Red Lodge won the Grays Cup this year, beating 3<sup>rd</sup> division teams. It was decided that Vernon would approach the clubs to ask if there is any team which feels it can no longer find the players to sustain its current level and would prefer to drop down or forego promotion. In the event that no one comes forward the meeting agreed that extra relegations would happen to allow Red Lodge and Culford to move further up the structure. It is in no ones interest that they play well below their true level, particularly to teams who suffer one-sided defeats

### **Mixed**

61 teams have entered for 2016 with 1 withdrawal and 5 new teams. So there will be 9 divs of 6 and 1 of 7. Extra relegations will be needed in the lower divisions to create the new Division 10

## **9. League Rules**

Gt Shelford were very apologetic that they had not been able to collect their engraved trophies in time for the meeting. In all the circumstances, the £20 per Trophy fine would be waived.

### **Rule 15 concerning start times and completion of matches.**

The proposed new wording was passed. The home captain now has the decision to shorten the final set in order to get a result and to avoid the teams having to reconvene. It was emphasised that match play should commence at the start time and a knock-up should last no more than 5 minutes.

#### **New Rule 15**

(a) Play must start at the scheduled match time shown in the fixtures.

(b) In matches arranged for evening play without floodlights play must commence at **6.30pm** or before. If there should be any dispute as to a suitable finishing time then it shall be regarded as unreasonable to

continue play without floodlights after 9.15pm in May or 9.30pm in June or July

(c) Where a club has floodlights on the two courts to be used, play must commence at the scheduled time but no later than **7.00pm** PROVIDED the floodlights are usable until at least **10.00pm**.

(d) If a pair or pairs arrive late, the opposing captain may **claim one set** 6–0 for each complete half an hour that each pair arrives after the scheduled match time. If a team should arrive more than one hour fifteen minutes late then the opponents may claim the match

(e) Reasonable efforts should be made to ensure that evening fixtures are completed before bad light or floodlight timers interrupts play. It is the responsibility of the home captain to offer that shortened games are organised to bring matches to a conclusion, and such arrangements must happen except where the away team captain commits to return to compete the match if all sets are not finished. A home team captain can offer that where rubbers are in a final set, shortened games should be played to decide the set before bad light or lack of floodlights prevents further play. This could involve sudden death deuces, or where time is very short games starting games at deuce.

(f) Where the home captain does not take steps as outlined in 15 (e) the League organiser after receipt of the facts has the option to award the final set(s) to the away team or to instruct that the teams reconvene to finish the match

(g) If it proves impossible to obtain a result, the procedure detailed in Rule 13 (c) shall apply.

Vernon then summarised the Committee's treatment of rearranging games, with reference to a handout shared with the meeting. Representatives were asked to share this with all Team Captains

### **Grays Cup Rules**

The proposed new wording for Rules 1 and 7 was passed

#### **1 Choice of ground:**

(a) In Round 1 the Committee will draw and schedule the matches. The first named team shall be the home team

(b) In subsequent rounds, if the clubs met in the previous year's competition the previous away team will be the home team. If the teams did not meet in the previous year, then whichever team has played or been drawn at home the fewer number of times in the current year competition will be the home team. Where this is equal the Organiser will spin a coin to decide home advantage

(c) In any round a team may concede home advantage to their opponents if BOTH teams agree.

(d) Draw order in the online system is not relevant other than in the first round

**7 Result notification:** The winning team shall inform the organiser of the result within seven days of the match being played. This must be in the form of a result sheet showing the full names of all 8 players.

### **10. Cambs LTA**

Mark Sanders (Cambs LTA Councillor from 2016) outlined the Cambridgeshire Fund which has obtained finances both from Cambs LTA and from the Central LTA. This fund has £200,000 to distribute in the next 3-5 years for club facilities development, eg resurfacing, new courts, floodlighting. Clubs will need to match any grant 50/50, prove feasibility and sustainability of the project and he encouraged clubs to approach him for further details and advice.

### **11. AOB**

Richard Barnes thanked everyone for coming and asked them to show their appreciation again for Vernon and his team. (sustained applause). The high attendance at the League AGM showed how much support and enjoyment there was for League tennis so more volunteers must come forward before next year in order for the Leagues to continue.

### **Presentation of Trophies**

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.45pm