

**AGM of the Slazenger Cambridge and District Tennis Leagues
held at Histon Recreation Centre on Wednesday 9th November 2016**

Those present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Club</u>
Tim Arthur	Chair - Cambs LTA Exec, & CLTC
Mark Sanders	Cambs LTA Councillor & Cambs Exec, Gt Shelford
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
Clare Fraser	Buckden
Arif Kibria	Cambourne
James Mills	Cambridge LTC
Dave Wing	Chatteris
Simon Grainger	Chatteris
Patrick Hall	Cocks & Hens
Alan Dignam	Cocks & Hens
Darren Matthews	Culford
Lisa Montique	David Lloyd
Jim Fordham	Exning
Ken Fish	Exning
Dave Smith	Foxton
Ian Halsall	Fulbourn
Stephen Hancock	Gransdens
Jacqui Lloyd	Gt Shelford
William Freeman	Grove Saffron Walden
Louise Luck	Haslingfield
Dave Rush	Histon
Nick Clifford	Huntingdon
Caroline Clifford	Huntingdon
Christine Knight	Meldreth
Nick Hassett	Milton
Mark Balaam	Needingworth
Tim Perry	Needingworth
Liz Bell	Newmarket
Elaine Bowman	Orwell
Nic Bowman	Orwell
Debra Barker	Papworth
Hannah Curtis	Papworth
Matt Miller	Phennards
Jim Hunter	RAF Wyton
Robin Wood	RAF Wyton
Roy Hesketh	RAF Wyton
Paul Hope	Red Lodge
Kelvin Morton	Risbygate
Gail Corcoran	Risbygate
John Holmes	Royston
Emma Windred	Royston
Othelia A Stallbom	St Neots

46 in attendance, clubs represented 28. No representatives from 8 clubs:

Comberton, Girton, Steeple Morden, Victory BSE, Soham, Virgin Active, Cottenham, Ely

Minutes of the AGM of the Slazenger Cambridge and District Tennis League held at Histon Recreation Centre on Wednesday 9th November 2016

1. Apologies for Absence were received from the following: Andy Weise (Comberton), Nick Tait (Cambs Exec), Brenda Pearce (Ely), Dave Willett (Soham), Alan Franklin (Girton), Bruce Hutchison (Cottenham)

2. Minutes of the 2015 AGM were passed and signed as a correct record of the meeting.

3. Matters arising Vernon reminded the meeting that Gt Shelford had not returned their trophies last year but by agreement of clubs present at the AGM the fine was not imposed, provided they passed the trophies on immediately after the AGM to the clubs who had won them. Since Gt Shelford had failed to do this, the meeting voted that the fine of £60 should now be imposed.

4. League Secretary's Report

Vernon expressed his delight at the very well attended meeting and asked those present to thank, as always, the continued commitment of Alison, Janice and Sylvia in managing the League Competitions which run throughout the year. (Thunderous applause)

Vernon presented his written report, summarised below:

League Rules The Committee had redrafted and amended the rules which will be discussed in detail later.

Website. Vernon recommended the new Cambs LTA website, particularly the Cambs League section and encouraged everyone to visit it. Thanks are due to Dan Murton who built it and now maintains it.

Club Communications Club representatives who receive emails and disseminate the information are crucial to the smooth running of the league and Vernon thanked them.

Lost Friends In 2015 Thetford, Bar Hill and University Press were unable to raise teams, and for 2017 Comberton have sadly not entered. Red Lodge have lost access to their courts and wish to combine with Exning to form an Exning 2nd team (to be discussed later under Formation of Summer Divisions).

Looking Forward The Committee are willing to stand for another year but there is concern for the future if no other volunteers are found. The Cambs Exec Committee are considering the possibility of employing a paid administrator who could take some of the burden of the League work, leaving a small committee to oversee disputes, run AGMs and the Grays Cup etc. Even if this happens, new volunteers are needed now in order to gain experience of League matters. Anybody interested should contact a member of the current committee.

5. Treasurer's Report

A Treasurer's report was submitted summarising the League finances over the last 5 years. The League aims to break even or make a small surplus after costs such as website fees, trophies, court/hall hire and the payment of small gratuities to the committee have been met.

Cambs LTA propose that the 2017 competition fees should be increased from £6 to £10 to be able to contribute towards the cost of an administrator. Both Tim Arthur and Mark Sanders, representing the Exec Committee felt that there was a demand for an administrator, something which the other Eastern region counties already had in place. Tim agreed to present a summary of the costs versus benefit of the Administrator at the next AGM.

After discussion, a vote was taken to pass the increase to £10.

Tim thanked Colin Tait for managing the accounts and Vernon for his report.

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 2016

Vernon presented a written report of all the league activities. There are 52 divisions run throughout the year, a total of 371 teams entering the different leagues and 37 in the Grays Cup K/O competition. This year there are 23 different clubs collecting trophies, with Royston, St Neots and David Lloyd collecting 5 apiece.

Summer league 209 teams competed, 63 ladies, 85 men and 61 mixed. Cambridge retained the Mixed Div 1 title, Gt Shelford took the Men's div 1 and David Lloyd the Ladies.

The Grays Cup 14 Ladies and 23 Mens teams entered this knockout competition. A very exciting and well attended final took place on 1st October at Hills Rd Tennis Centre. In the Ladies final neither club was able to put out its strongest players and the 2015 final result was reversed with St Neots ladies beating Histon ladies.

Cambourne men and Royston men fought a very even final right down to a deciding tie-break, eventually won by Cambourne 12-10. Tim Presented the cups to the winners.

Vets This Spring League for 45+ players runs with 5 divisions. A slight drop in entries for 2016 has been reversed with the 2017 entries up to 35 teams.

Super Seniors 2016 was the fourth year of this day-time competition for the 60+ but is slow to take off. 3 teams entered the men's and mixed leagues but only 1 for the ladies. Kelvin Morton spoke strongly in favour of the league saying how enjoyable it was and encouraged other clubs to enter.

Winter This league is running now, with 125 teams in total. The mixed league is gradually increasing since the decision was made to play men's/ladies one week and mixed the next. 2 teams had withdrawn and Vernon stressed the necessity of ensuring you have committed players for winter tennis before entering teams.

8. Formation of Divisions for Summer Leagues 2017

Ladies league For 2017 there are 2 out (Comberton Div 2, Hunts 3 Div 8) and 1 in (Buckden 2) totaling 62 teams.

To counter the loss of Comberton in Div 2 Vernon proposed that from Div 3 down, 3 teams were promoted and 2 relegated. Dives 1-6 would have 8 teams, Div 7 & 8 only 7 teams. Passed on show of hands.

Men's League. For 2017 there would be 83 teams, Dives 1-7 of 8 teams and Dives 8-10 of 9 teams. Red Lodge had withdrawn all their teams as they no longer have access to courts. Red Lodge 1st team plan to join Exning and would like to become Exning 2nd team, but retain their position in Div 4 where they finished 3rd.

Mixed league For 2017 2 teams have dropped out - Comberton from Div 6 and Fulbourn 2 from Div 9 So there would be 9 Dives of 6 teams and Div 10 of 5 teams for the 59 teams entered. Culford were too strong for Div 10, and if there was a team in a higher division which did not wish to take promotion, the meeting was happy for Culford to be jumped up. Vernon would liaise with Gransdens 2 in Div 8 who may or may not want to forgo promotion.

There was general discussion about new, strong teams being jumped up through the divisions. Some clubs expressed their annoyance at last year's decisions, but it was stressed that clubs must attend the AGM if they want their voice heard. Kelvin pointed out that these decisions are not Vernon's but those of the Clubs present at the AGM. It is difficult to make hard and fast rules as the composition varies each year.

Tim Arthur suggested that the proposed summer league format be distributed in advance with the AGM papers. This was agreed with a show of hands and the 2017 League formats were accepted.

9. League Rules

A revised set of Rules had been circulated prior to the AGM. The committee had felt the necessity to reorder the rules, now subdivided into sections A-G and make a few amendments.

Section A General League Rules – unchanged

Section B Summer League Operation

B5 - remove "a member "

B6 – amendment accepted

B11 – accepted, with the comment that out of politeness, clubs should always tell opposition if they have only one pair available.

Section C Nominations – unchanged

Section D Match Day Rules

D1, D2, D3 amendments accepted

D8 new rule brought in last year to allow shortening of final sets. The Committee was not aware that this rule had been used and some team captains seemed unaware of it. Worthwhile establishing at the start of the match if both sides agree to use this rule.

D10 & D12 amendments accepted

Section E Re-arranged Matches

E1 – add to last sentence ".....and the away captain must accept within a week"

E2 & E3 – delete last phrase "....and will also have 2 points deducted"

Section F Completing Matches Started but not finished

F1-F9 – accepted

Section G Winter & Vets

G1-G4 – accepted

The question was raised as to whether a match could be recorded as unfinished when one team had won 5 sets and therefore had a victory. Since the set count and even the game count can determine final positions it is important for matches to be completed. The winning team could always concede the remaining sets.

Vernon stressed the importance of the Rules to aid the committee to settle any disputes that arise.

Tim Arthur thanks Vernon for his work on the Rules and the amendments were accepted by a show of hands.

10. Cambs LTA

Tim Arthur reported briefly on the work of the Cambs LTA and its aim to improve better communications with the clubs via the website, Newsletters and through visits from Committee members to the clubs. There is funding available for capital and/or revenue projects via T4C (revenue) and the Cambridge fund (capital). The LTA website contains a great deal of useful information on fundraising, grant applications as well as other area aimed at to assisting clubs in being successful. Mark Sanders (our LTA representative) is also looking into attracting more sponsorship deals for the county. He encouraged all clubs to attend the next AGM to learn more.

11. AOB

None

Presentation of Trophies

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.05pm after Tim again thanked Vernon and the other Committee members.