

Agenda Item 4 - League Secretaries Report to 2017 AGM

Opening Remarks

We continue to have competitions throughout the year and as we'll reflect during the meeting, team numbers are slowly increasing so that has to be a good sign. Our competitions continue to be:

- Vets League in Feb/March,
- Men's and Ladies Doubles Leagues in April/May/June,
- Mixed Doubles in June/July/August
- Super Seniors from May to Sept
- The Grays Cup competitions during the summer
- 'Winter' Leagues (Mens Ladies and Mixed) in Sept/Oct/November/December

League Rules

There is a Rules item on the Agenda, but this is really only to hear any views on the major restructuring of our Rules which you agreed at last years AGM. I have heard very few comments during the year. Hopefully a good sign!!

Website

The CAMBS LTA website has become the one stop shop for all Cambs League documents, and for easy access to the results website. PLEASE continue to ensure that all the Team Captains and players in your club are aware of this facility.

Club Communications

As ever a big thank you to all of you who receive league emails and pass them on to the club captains/members. This process is absolutely crucial to the smooth running of the League

Trophy Presentation

This year we are going to try something different to make the Trophy presentation more of the occasion it should be. As well as changing the way we present trophies we are planning a Cambs League Award for a noteworthy achievement during the year. I hope this may become an annual award, though not always given for the same achievement!!

Looking Forward

Subject to the AGM agreeing, the current Committee are willing to continue for a further year.

As I have said at the last 3 AGM's, I have been League Secretary since 2005 & we must find volunteers willing to take the Leagues into the future. Previous appeals have not been successful and the Cambs Exec Committee believe it may be difficult to find anyone without re-defining the role of the League Committee.

Cambs LTA are seeking a paid administrator and as well as carrying out admin work for the Exec, that person could do some of the League work. Specifically things like collecting entries and fees, preparing fixture schedules, and recording results.

If that were done a small League Committee would still be needed to oversee the leagues, handle the various 'disputes' which inevitably arise, consider what changes may be needed from time to time, and organise AGM's. To be able to take part in or even lead such a scaled down committee will need experience.

So once again, PLEASE - will anyone interested in joining the existing committee come forward & speak to me.

If there are no plans for the future a crisis for our leagues is inevitable. Alison Janice Sylvia or I may wish to stop at any time. We have at least given plenty of warning.....

Thank You's

I have been very fortunate to have the support and friendship of Alison Janice & Sylvia. We have jointly run these Leagues for more than 10 years and thanks to them it's been a pleasure!

Agenda Item 5 - League Finances

With thanks to Colin Tait, the usual Summary of League Finances looking back over 5 years is reproduced below. Questions on any aspect are welcome at the AGM.

INCOME	2012/3	2013/4	2014/5	2015/6	2016/7
Winter League Entry Fees	590	618	636	690	672
Summer & Vets League plus Grays Cup Entry Fees & Super Vets Entry Fees	1738	1776	1698	1566	2696
Penalty Fines					110
Cambs LTA Contribution towards Gratuities	363	383	397	399	398

EXPENSES

Trophy Replacement and Engraving	189	330	150	159	158
Hire of Room for AGM	40	40	40	40	40
Court Hire Grays Cup Final	120	120	132	132	132
Gratuities	726	766	794	798	796
Web Site Fees	735	824	742	623	596
Telephone/Postages/Photocopy		30	30	30	
Surplus to Cambs LTA <small>(after deducting their Gratuity Contribution)</small>	518	275	445	473	1756

BREAKDOWN OF GRATUITIES

Vernon Dudley	339	367	381	384	384
Alison McNaught	140	94	130	126	125
Sylvia Morton	50	135	118	120	124
Janice Mills	197	170	165	168	163

COMMENT

We have not had penalty fines in recent years but this year there were two. One was for failure to complete Winter League fixtures and the other was for failure to return trophies for presentation at last year's AGM.

Last year's Winter League fees were paid before the AGM and therefore at the old team entry rate. All the other League entries were at the increased rate agreed at the 2016 AGM hence the £1130 rise.

Agenda Item 7 - Review of Competition - 2017

Overall

We now have 51 different divisions throughout the year, In 2017 a total of 376 teams entered in our 3 main seasons (+5 on 2016). Plus of course the 2 Grays Cups and the Super Seniors And it's really good that in the presentations of the trophies at the AGM there will be 23 different clubs collecting their reward - I think that's a really good mix!

Summer Leagues

A total of 205 teams entered in 2017 – 4 less than in 2016. This 2017 total breaks down as:

- 63 Ladies teams in 8 Divisions
- 83 Mens Teams in 10 Divisions
- 59 Mixed Teams in 10 Divisions

Congratulations this year go to two clubs. Cambridge have won the County Championship in the Ladies & Mens competitions. The Mixed County Champions are David Lloyd.

So our summer leagues remain strong with a net 8 additional teams meaning 213 teams entered for summer 2018

Grays Cups

The Ladies cup drew 14 entries and the Mens 19, all leading to a Finals evening at Hills Road on Saturday 7th October. A good number of supporters enjoyed two competitive matches

The Ladies semi finals were played between David Lloyd & Saffron Walden, and by Cambridge & Histon. The final then saw David Lloyd play Cambridge. In a hard fought contest we came to 9.00 when the centre closed and the match was incomplete. The first time this has ever happened as far as I know. So we can't celebrate this years winners yet! As things stand David Lloyd lead 4 sets to 3. Cambridge are narrowly ahead in the incomplete set. So a draw and champions tie break is a possibility. The match will be completed in mid - November. I'll publicise the result in due course!

The Mens semi finals were played between Cambourne & Risbygate, and by Royston & Haslingfield. The Mens Final was a high standard contest featuring Risbygate and Royston. A really good battle resulted in a 6-2 win for Risbygate who are the 2017 Mens Grays Cup winners - congratulations to them

The entries for 2018 are in and in the Mens competition we have 18 teams. Sadly once again the number of Ladies teams entering has dropped again from 14 to 12 teams. It would be good to hear why more clubs don't enter Ladies teams in what is our only knock-out cup. Not too late to change your mind & enter if you wish. Just let me know before the end of December.

Veterans Tennis

For a fifth successive year we ran two competitions in the Vets category

Vets

In the Spring running through late January to late March a league with teams of 2 men + 2 ladies. Age limits of 45 Men & Ladies.

Entries for 2017 totalled 36 teams which reversed the drop in numbers in 2016. This remains a much loved competition in the worst of the winter weather - what a hardy lot you are! In 2018 we have one extra team entered - so 37 in all which means we could do:

3 divisions of 7 teams (6 matches) and 2 divisions of 8 teams (7 matches).

Or if less matches are wanted are 5 divisions of 6 teams (5 matches) and 1 division of 7 teams (6 matches)

A decision for the AGM

2017 Divisional Champions were:

Div 1: David Lloyd 1

Div 2: Cambridge 2

Div 3: Gransdens 1

Div 4: Histon 1

Div 5: Buckden 1

Super Seniors

In 2013 we started a Super Seniors League for age 60+, so 2017 has been the fifth year of this competition.

In 2017 we had 5 teams enter the mens competition, 4 ladies teams and 6 in the mixed. a total of 15 so just viable. I think it's true to say that all the matches were really enjoyable social occasions

Congratulations go to the 2017 champions who were:

Mens Super Seniors Champions - Risbygate

Ladies Super Seniors Champions - Histon

Mixed Super Seniors Champions - Histon

I really hope we can build on what has been a slow start. Do please discuss the possibility of entering teams at your clubs next Committee meeting. Entries will be invited in March. Don't forget that joint teams with another club are allowed in this competition

Winter League

The Winter Leagues are a real success story, showing a growth in the number of teams of over 40% compared with 10 years ago. The figures are:

	2007	2017
Ladies Teams	33	46
Mens Teams	34	55
Mixed Teams	21	34

Whilst this is really welcome, it does raise issues that I think this years AGM needs to debate. Separating the Mens/Ladies and Mixed in to alternative weeks has undoubtedly been a success, allowing clubs to enter both without fear of fixture clashes. But it has meant that we have had to start as early as 11th September, and also schedule the last round of Mixed matches for the first week of January 2018. The early start has caused a number of clashes with "Club Finals" tournaments.

I think the AGM needs to decide:

1 Are you happy with a mid Sept start and matches in early January? If so should we agree that where a match clashes with a "Club Finals" event for either the home or away team it must be rearranged? And are you happy with matches stretching to early January?

2 Would you prefer a later start which will mean a reduction in the number of matches? This year most Mens & Ladies teams have 7 scheduled matches. Most Mixed teams have 6 matches. These would need to be cut by at least one to have a shorter season

So decisions are needed ahead of the 2018 season

The 2017 season is of course ongoing. At this years AGM we can offer congratulations to the various division winners in 2016 who were as follows:

2016 Winners			
Division	Mens	Ladies	Mixed
1	Fulbourn 1	Cambridge 1	St Neots 1
2	David Lloyd Peterborough 1	St Neots 1	Gt Shelford 1
3	St Neots 1	Cambourne 1	Gt Shelford 2
4	Red Lodge 1	Saffron Walden 2	Buckden 1
5	David Lloyd 3	Huntingdon 1	Risbygate 1
6	Huntingdon 1	Buckden 2	N/A
7	Chatteris 1	N/A	N/A

Agenda Item 9 - League Rules

At the 2016 AGM a new set of Rules was agreed, being mainly a restructuring of existing wordings to a more logical order. A few new wordings were added. These Rules can be viewed at any time on the Cambs LTA website. The new sections added last year are still shown in blue

I can't remember any question being raised about the new Rules during the year, and no changes have been proposed for this year. Hopefully all a good sign!

We had one issue during the year, involving injury time-outs and what is reasonable. One match was interrupted several times including one break of 10-15mins

There is nothing in the Cambs League Rules about this, though interestingly in all the years I've been involved in the Cambs League I've never had this question before

The Committee don't feel a Rule is appropriate. At the ATP/WTA level there are strict limits on medical time outs, though it's worth remembering that usually a player decides himself/herself to 'retire hurt' if they can't carry on.

I think the answer at our level is that almost always common sense prevails. If a player can't continue they do in effect concede all remaining sets/games. Having said that if a serious injury happens early on there have been cases where both teams have mutually agreed to rearrange as they want to enjoy a match. The League committee would never object as long as we are kept informed and the match gets played by the final deadline (31 August for the summer matches)

So we believe the answer is that we would hope things get sorted amicably & sensibly by the two captains at the match.