

Agenda Item 4 - League Secretaries Report to 2018 AGM

Opening Remarks

We continue to have competitions throughout the year and as we'll reflect during the meeting, team numbers are either holding steady or 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. The Rules were substantially re-drafted in 2016 and there have been no issues since, and no suggestions for changes have been received. Following a recent problem I want to explain and debate Rules D4 & D7 under Agenda Item 9

Website

The CAMBS LTA website is 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.

And a plea to make more use of the "Notes" on the result system. Every time a match is postponed or rearranged the best way of making the organiser aware is to put notes on the system. That way the League Committee and all the other clubs in a division will be aware of when a game may be played

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

Last year we tried something different to make the Trophy presentation more of the occasion it should be. I think it went well - feedback suggests so. A similar format is planned for this year.

Last year we introduced a Cambs League Award for a noteworthy achievement during the year. I hoped this may become an annual award, though not always given for the same achievement!! We have the 2nd Annual Award to present on the 21st!

Thank You's

The Committee has continued to work really well together this year, and for me it's a pleasure & privilege to have the support of Sylvia, Alison & Janice. Also we gave a warm welcome to Phil Day who offered to join us & who we co-opted on to the Committee this year.

After many years Alison is stepping down at this years AGM. The meeting will be a chance for you all to say a well deserved 'thank you' for Alisons involvement in making sure the Cambs League is the success we believe it to be.

Agenda Item 5 - League Finances

With thanks to Colin Tait, the usual Summary of League Finances looking back over 6 years has been sent out in a separate document. Questions on any aspect are welcome at the AGM.

Agenda Item 6 - Election of Officers

The scope of the adult league matches offered by Cambs LTA, and the fact that we schedule all our matches, means that there is a lot of work to do in running your competitions. I suggest that it wouldn't be possible both to run all the leagues we offer and operate with "Fixtures Meetings" as done in some adjoining counties.

I also believe that continuity and experience are vital and this is best secured through dedicated volunteers. As a result there is a need both to maintain a strong committee, and identify a League Secretary successor if the clubs want to see our competitions continue.

Of the existing Committee, Sylvia & Janice & I are standing for re-election for at least one more year. During the year Phil Day was co-opted onto the Committee and is standing for election at the 2019 AGM

I'm also delighted to say that Lynn Belbin & Ailsa Weir are standing for election to a new Committee of 6. This will allow us to 'spread the load' and if the AGM approves the new Committee will meet soon after the AGM to agree a division of tasks.

As I've said to recent AGM's, there will be a need for a new League Secretary. I'm no longer playing, my County Secretary role with Cambs LTA is no longer needed and I've been in the League Secretary role since 2005

The two propositions to this years AGM on which you need to vote are:

1 To elect the following Committee members:

Vernon Dudley - League Secretary
Lynn Belbin
Phil Day
Janice Mills
Sylvia Morton
Ailsa Weir

2 To agree that the current Gratuities set up has been in place unchanged for many years and needs updating. So the proposition is that the surplus resulting from the League Fees less Expenses will be used to pay an annual Gratuity of up to £400 to each member of the Committee. In recognition of the voluntary time they give to provide League and Cup tennis for adult teams in Cambs. Any remaining surplus will be transferred to Cambs LTA accounts each year.

Agenda Item 7 - Review of Competition - 2018

Overall

We now have 53 (+2) different divisions throughout the year, In 2018 a total of 388 teams entered in our 3 main seasons (+12 on 2017). Plus of course the 2 Grays Cups and the Super Seniors. And in the presentations of the trophies at the AGM there will be 18 different clubs collecting their reward - that's a smaller number than in 2017 but still a good spread

Summer Leagues

A total of 213 teams entered in 2018 – 8 more than in 2017. This 2018 total breaks down as:

- 65 Ladies teams in 8 Divisions
- 85 Mens Teams in 11 Divisions
- 63 Mixed Teams in 10 Divisions

Congratulations this year go to three clubs. Cambridge have won the County Championship in the Ladies competition. The Mens County Champions are Great Shelford & the Mixed County Champions are David Lloyd.

So our summer leagues remain strong with a net 3 fewer teams meaning 210 teams entered for summer 2019

Grays Cups

The Ladies cup drew 14 entries and the Mens 19, all leading to a Finals evening at Hills Road on Saturday 29th September. I was unable to be there and so thanks to fellow Committee members who made sure the evening went smoothly

The Ladies final was played between Cambridge & Histon. Cambridge were represented by Alison McNaught Clare Varley (capt) Bridget Pickup & Lynn Belbin
The four Histon Ladies were Margaret Chambers Nicky Wright (Capt) Jane Fidler & Sheila Strachen

Cambridge Ladies were victorious and were 4 sets up at the change-over. Once Alison and Clare had won the first set of the second round, the match was won and all decided to stop. So 5-0 to Cambridge with one set stopped at 5-4 and 2 unplayed.

The Mens final was played between holders Risbygate & Great Shelford. Risbygate were represented by Brenton Matteus Sam Ratcliffe Tom Taylor & Asa Sumner Keens
The four Shelford Men were Nick Tait Phil Graves Mark Sanders & Mark Fleck

A strong young Risbygate team were 3-1 up at the change-over and won all sets in the second round to win 7-1.

So the winners are Cambridge Ladies & Risbygate Men

The entries for 2019 are in and in the Mens competition we have 20 teams. Sadly once again the number of Ladies teams entering has dropped again from 14 to 13 teams.

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 2018 totalled 37 teams (+1 on 2017). This remains a popular competition in the worst of the winter weather - but in my opinion provides some really fun matches!

For 2019 we have 38 teams entered (3 new but 2 withdrawals) so the competition continues to slowly grow

2018 Divisional Champions were:

Div 1: Great Shelford 1

Div 2: Royston 1

Div 3: Histon 1

Div 4: Newmarket 1

Div 5: Saffron Walden 1

Div 6: Gransdens 2

Super Seniors

In 2013 we started a Super Seniors League for age 60+, so 2018 has been the 6th year of what has become a small competition much loved by those who enter

In 2018 we had 5 teams enter the mens competition & 6 in the mixed. Congratulations go to the 2018 champions who were:

Mens Super Seniors Champions - Risbygate

Mixed Super Seniors Champions - Histon

Sadly only two ladies teams tried to enter so we didn't run the league but I know the two teams played home & away friendly matches where the cakes were the stars!

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 11 years ago. The figures are:

	2007	2017	2018
Ladies Teams	33	46	43
Mens Teams	34	55	57
Mixed Teams	21	34	38

The growth has undoubtedly been helped by having Mens/Ladies fixtures on alternating weeks to the Mixed Whilst this is quite a fixture setting challenge I think it's worthwhile

The 2018 season is of course ongoing. My apologies to all for the system issues early on which meant results couldn't be entered. Sadly my holiday coincided with the LTA's failure to properly 'convert' the league.

At this years AGM we can offer congratulations to the various division winners in 2017 who were as follows:

2017 Winners			
Division	Mens	Ladies	Mixed
1	David Lloyd 1	Cambridge 1	St Neots 1
2	Royston 2	Saffron Walden 1	Saffron Walden 1
3	Cocks & Hens 1	Cambridge 3	Buckden 1
4	Saffron Walden 1	Histon 1	Haslingfield 1
5	Newmarket 1	Royston 3	David Lloyd 3
6	Soham 1	David Lloyd 4	N/A
7	Cocks & Hens 2	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 so for those with smart phones they are available at a match if absolutely necessary

I can't remember any question being raised about the correctness of the Rules during the last 2 years year, and no changes have been proposed for this year. Hopefully all a good sign!

We had one problem during the year, involving the claiming of a set for late arrival. I'd like to explain & debate at the meeting how Rules D4 & D7 cover this when applied together:

D4 Play must start at the scheduled match time shown in the fixtures

D7 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