

CHELMSFORD & DISTRICT LAWN TENNIS FEDERATION

Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on Wednesday 4th February 2009 at Great Baddow Lawn Tennis Club at 7.30 p.m.

Present	Mr. Richard Barkley	(Hon Chairman)
	Mr. Daniel Anderson	(Hon General Secretary)
	Mr. Ken Bowser	(Hon League Secretary)
	Mrs. Jane Bodley	Representing Mr. Mervyn Bodley (Hon Treasurer)

Representatives of the following Clubs were present (19 of 19): -

Basildon Lawn Tennis Club, Danbury Tennis Club, David Lloyd Club (Basildon), Forrester Park Tennis Club, Grove Lawn Tennis Club (Chelmsford), Great Baddow Lawn Tennis Club, Ingatestone and Fryerning Tennis Club, Maldon Tennis Club, Marconi Tennis Club, Maylands Tennis Club, Mountnessing Tennis Club, Old Chelmsfordians Tennis Club, Rochford Tennis Club, South Hanningfield Tennis Club, Silver End Tennis Club, Southminster Tennis Club, Stock Tennis Club, Wickford Lawn Tennis Club and Writtle Tennis Club.

Apologies for absence: All clubs were represented.

1. The Minutes of the last AGM

These had already been posted to the clubs and the minutes were accepted (Proposed by Wickford and seconded by Basildon). No Matters arising.

2. Chairman's Report

The Chairman stated that it had been a problem-free year with no controversial matters. He emphasised the importance of good tennis etiquette when representing your club, and encouraged clubs to ensure that they always turn up on time, with a full squad regardless of strength, and are conscious of the fact that some clubs have to turn off their floodlights by a certain time. He encouraged players to be considerate and courteous, particularly during the knock-up, and emphasised the importance of honest calling. Most of all clubs should try to avoid arguments on court, and should make an effort to be good hosts to their opponents in matches. The Chairman felt that all of the above points were especially important in a time when the popularity of tennis as a sport is increasing, and new people are taking up the game. He also pointed out that it is important for adult players to act as good role models to the younger players that are now coming through.

3. General Secretary's Report

The Secretary noted that the season had been uneventful. He pointed out that due to the amount of time that had to be put into chasing up clubs for their contact details, he had sent out forms for the clubs to return at the AGM, and encouraged those representatives that had not returned their forms to do so as soon as possible so that the sheets could be sent out well in advance of the start of matches. The Secretary mentioned that he had sent out a record of who had received trophies at last year's AGM, and had traced the missing trophies to when they were last presented. All trophies presented in 2008 had been returned, and two of the missing trophies were located. Efforts would be made to locate the final missing trophy. All clubs would be notified in advance of next years AGM as to who is in possession of the trophies.

4. Treasurer's Report

Jane Bodley presented the accounts on behalf of the Treasurer, who sent his apologies. The accounts were presented and the report was adopted. She pointed out that all affiliation fees from 2007 and 2008 had been paid, and that income from affiliation fees had remained the same as the previous year. The report recommended that the team league entrance fee remain at £2 per team and the club affiliation fee at £5. She noticed that expenditure was much lower this year, and that this was likely to be due to the fact that she had not received very many expenses claims, and that people had not been getting their trophies engraved. All claims would need to be submitted by the end of the month. She noted that the balance was healthy, and no changes were suggested.

6. League Secretary's Report

The League Secretary had not had any problems this year. He noted that there was a shortage of result cards for the coming season, but this would be dealt with. Result cards were distributed to the club representatives. Ken noted that he thought the divisions were getting too big, as many had now been increased to nine teams. He warned clubs that if there were further increases in teams next year, then further divisions may be opened and teams that were not in the bottom two in their division may find themselves relegated. This would be necessary to maintain balanced and workable divisions. There was a notable increase in Mens teams, which was due to efforts by himself and the Secretary to re-open Mens Division IV, which had been closed the previous season. Though there were additional Mens teams, there were not enough to open another division, but he hoped that there would be by next year.

7. Applications to Join the Federation

The Secretary and League Secretary had allowed Rochford Tennis Club and Ingatestone Tennis Club to enter teams in the 2008 season without being approved at the 2008 AGM. These clubs were then formally admitted. Maldon Tennis Club wished to join the Federation for the 2009 season and was admitted unopposed.

8. Proposed League formation for 2008

No clubs had withdrawn from the Federation. Discussion had already taken place regarding the proposed leagues under the League Secretary's Report. The proposed leagues were accepted.

9. Election of Officers for 2008.

All current officers were willing to continue and so the following were elected unopposed: -

Hon Chairman	Mr. Richard Barkley	(Grove LTC)
Hon General Secretary	Mr. Daniel Anderson	(Southminster LTC)
Hon Treasurer	Mr. Mervyn Bodley	(Grove LTC)
Hon League Secretary	Mr. Ken Bowser	(Wickford LTC)

10. Results and Presentation of Trophies

Only one trophy was missing. The following trophies were presented for the 2008 season: -

Mens Division 1 - Great Baddow 1	Mens Division 2 - Stock	Mens Division 3 - Rochford
Ladies Division 1 - Great Baddow 1	Ladies Division 2 - Grove 2	Ladies Division 3 - Grove 3 (Not presented)
Mixed Division 1 - Great Baddow 1	Mixed Division 2 - Grove 2	Mixed Division 3 - Southminster 1
Mixed Division 4 - Ingatestone		

11. Champion's League

The Secretary informed the meeting that he and the League Secretary had attended a meeting in August to discuss an initiative forwarded by the Southend and District LTA. Geoff Payne of Rochford outlined the proposal. It would essentially involve the winners and runners up of the top divisions in each of the District Leagues across Essex. These teams would compete against each other through the winter, concluding with a semi-final and final, the winners of which would be the County Champions. The competition is to be funded by the Essex Lawn Tennis Association. The proposal was that the first season should begin in the coming October, and as a pilot year, would only involve the Mens champions from each league, but could be expanded if successful to include Ladies, Mixed and even Juniors the following year. Geoff Payne informed the meeting that the Southend and District LTA and the Brentwood and District LTA had already agreed to this, and that various other leagues, including the Romford and District, Halstead and District, Ilford, and Colchester and District leagues were all considering the proposals, and had responded positively. The Federation had not yet committed itself, as it wanted to allow its members to have their say. The Chairman requested that each club let the Secretary know by 20th March whether or not they would be in favour of the Chelmsford and District Lawn Tennis Federation agreeing to take part in this competition.

12. Website

The Secretary pointed out that he had received numerous requests throughout the season that the Federation have its own website, similar to that which used to run for the Stock Winter League, whereby clubs could get up to date results and league tables. He informed the meeting that a website had been created free of charge, and that he would be willing to maintain it. He noted however, that it would only be of any use if clubs sent in their scorecards promptly after the match. It was pointed out that the current league rule is that scorecards should be sent in within 3 days of the match being played, and that this was not being adhered to. It was agreed however that this time period was too small, and may need to be amended in the future. Some clubs suggested that there should be penalties for clubs who do not send in their cards, but this was not agreed upon. It was agreed that the Secretary would maintain the website by communicating with the League Secretary on a weekly basis. Clubs were encouraged to make an effort to send in their cards as promptly as possible.

13. Any Other Business

a) Danbury suggested that clubs adopt set days for Mixed fixtures, and set days for Ladies and Mens fixtures in line with the Leigh and Westcliffe League. This was opposed as many clubs have other commitments to different leagues, coaching and social sessions.

b) Southminster inquired as to how Great Baddow Mens 3 had accrued 34 points from their last four fixtures having been in the relegation zone all season, only to end up in second place. The Great Baddow representative replied that a number of those final fixtures had been conceded to them. The meeting agreed that this was not Great Baddow's fault, but that clubs should not be giving away walkovers on a regular basis. A number of clubs suggested that if a game is conceded, the team that concedes should receive nothing from that fixture as is now the case, but the 'winning' club should not be awarded the full 9 points, and rather should be either awarded an average of their results throughout the season, or awarded the number of points that they won in the other fixture against that team, as is accepted practice in the local table-tennis leagues. It was agreed that this would be put on the Agenda for next year's AGM.

The Chairman thanked everybody for attending, and thanked Great Baddow for hosting the meeting.

The meeting closed at approximately 8.45 pm. The Fixtures Meeting took place after the AGM. End.

Daniel Anderson
Hon. General Secretary