

Huntingdon & Peterborough Tennis Association

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT WYTON ON THE HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL ON THURSDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2022

MINUTES

Present [NOTE * - CURRENT COMMITTEE MEMBER]

Dennis Vincent* - Chairperson	Geoff Smith* - Association & League Secretary (retiring)
Jason Tuxworth - Treasurer & Fixtures Secretary	Jim Hunter - Needingworth
Sally Pell *- St Neots	Rachel Selwyn (formerly 'Gillett')* - Ramsey
Simon Grainger - Chatteris	Wendy Cropp - Wisbech
Chris Young - Hemingford	Vernon Reuter - Hemingford
Robert Brown - City of Peterborough	Eesa Najib - City of Peterborough
George Green - City of Peterborough	Duncan Malcolmson - Deeping Tennis Club
Ruth Swann - Longthorpe	Alan Swann - Longthorpe
Karen Tattersall - Stamford	Mark Balaam - Needingworth
Caroline Clifford - Huntingdon	Nick Clifford - Huntingdon
David Reed - Oundle	Carol Hallewell - Oundle
Mark Hallewell - Oundle	

Apologies for Absence were received from the following :

Jim Wheeler (Ketton) ; John Rudd (David Lloyd) ; David McPartlin (Castor & Ailsworth) ; Esmond Edwards* ; Clare Fraser (Buckden) ; Stephen Lewins (Oundle) ; Antionne Zimmerman (Huntingdon)

Clubs represented : Stamford ; St Neots ; Wisbech ; Ramsey ; City of Peterborough ; Hemingford ; Needingworth ; Longthorpe ; Oundle ; Deeping ; Huntingdon ; and Chatteris [**12 Clubs in total**]

Clubs not represented : Ketton ; David Lloyd ; Castor & Ailsworth ; Bourne Town ; Buckden ; Spalding Town [**6 Clubs in total**]

MEETING COMMENCED AT 7:35 PM

1. **Chairperson - Welcome**

Dennis Vincent welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

2. **Minutes** of the last Annual General Meeting held on **Thursday 2nd December 2021** were accepted as a true and fair record of the proceedings.

3. **Matters Arising** - there were none.

4. **Association & League Secretary's Report**

Geoff presented his report which had also been circulated to all of the clubs prior to the meeting. He started by extending a warm welcome to everyone and continued by saying " Generally speaking its been good getting the league matches fully up and running again after the Covid problems experienced over the last couple of years or so. It did involve me in quite a bit more pre-season work with the additional club consultations that were needed and a rule amendment (agreed at the 2021 AGM) regarding match refreshments was implemented - this seems to have worked well with hardly any issues arising that I was made aware of. However for me the season became progressively frustrating and at times rather stressful due to a number of enquiries being received on a fairly regular basis concerning issues arising from team withdrawals/difficulties and having to chase-up scores and matters relating thereto.

There were also a number of instances where team captains had obviously not been properly briefed on what was required of them in respect of our rules. I received a number of queries that wouldn't have been necessary if the current rules and contacts list information had been read. Also I wasn't advised early enough in several cases where club contact details had changed which led to further enquiries being received by me during the season. Several scorecards were late in being downloaded (way beyond the 48 hour requirement) and in a few cases the team captains struggled to use our website facility. Others were incomplete with sometimes only first names being shown. Also there were a couple of issues regarding late starts arising from a failure to note details in the Contact List in one case and traffic problems in another. Going forward there is therefore a need for clubs to make sure that their individual team captains are fully briefed before the start of the season - I sent the relevant papers out plenty early enough to help facilitate this. [continued overleaf]

4. Association & League Secretary's Report [continued]

At its last meeting the Committee reviewed disciplinary matters requiring their ruling. All of the conceded matches had been properly dealt with by Jason and those that have had fines upheld under the present rules will have them dealt with as part of the league entry arrangements for next season - similar to carried over financial arrangements this year pursuant to the pandemic affected seasons etc. Where teams had been relegated as a result of conceded matches then these would form part of the normal pre-season divisional structures review. However as far as future provisions are concerned it was felt that there is a need for a general review of the rules insofar as the demotion arrangements are concerned and penalties by way of fines are applied. Members felt that fines were not necessarily applicable to the right people and that it was unfair on the club as a whole to pay for individual teams that were causing a problem. There was also the matter of team withdrawals during the season and in particular that of the Huntingdon "A" team (Mens Division 1) whereby they had started the season but then withdrew and are automatically relegated but have a "B" team gaining promotion that effectively restores there club's Mens Division 1 status. Unfortunately there is nothing in the present rules to avoid this but fines are of course applicable. After some debate it was decided that this matter be referred to the AGM with a view to removing all of the fine provisions under Rule 11 for conceded matches but to enhance the rule about relegation not being by relegation to the division below but demotion to the bottom division - this to be effective from next season. So this matter is over to you tonight and can be discussed and agreed under item 6. A behavioural complaint arising during the mixed league match between the Oundle and City of Peterborough clubs was resolved by me and approved by the Committee with no further action being taken against either club.

The very hot weather conditions over the summer made for some difficult conditions but most of the clubs managed the situation well. A suggestion that provision be made in the rules for dealing with situations where people don't want to play because of the heat was considered by the Committee but as so few requests were actually received it was felt that an addition to the rules for this isn't necessary at this time . Also I feel that we must get the message over to clubs that at least one representative should be sent to the AGM as it is important that everyone has a say in how things are run and the rules that are applied.

I am extremely grateful to Jason for all his hard work on the fixtures and his help and support throughout the year - what an excellent job he has done ; his report follows. Also his arranging of our meeting venue at no cost to the Association is exceptionally helpful and is much appreciated. Dennis has also had throat problems that he is still struggling to have treated effectively so I wish him well with that and thank him for his efforts on the Don Brace Cup which he managed for the first time this year. Sally Pell has kindly offered to take over my secretarial duties which is much appreciated as are Esmond's continued help in annually auditing out books. Rachel Gillett (now Selwyn) has been a welcome addition to the Committee and hopefully more new members will be forthcoming albeit no further nominations were received. Brian Brown is not very well at the moment so I'm sure that you like me hopes that he has a speedy recovery.

You will no doubt have noticed from the papers sent out regarding nominations for next year that I am seeking to finally retire from this post. I had hoped to have done it a year ago but the time and prevailing pandemic situation didn't make it feel like the right time. I have now been involved with the League for over 33 years doing one job or another, and latterly stepping into the breach when Steve Spilka sadly passed away. Physically (not mentally - yet !) time is now catching up on me and I don't feel I can undertake another very busy and time-consuming year doing this particular job. Health issues with my wife and a lesser degree myself also need to be considered. However I am happy to continue on the Committee in a 'shadow' role and to help with kick-starting the 2023 season and to support our new Secretary elect, Sally Pell. To this effect it was agreed at our last Committee meeting that I be nominated to fill the role of Vice-Chair which will enable me to provide ongoing assistance and to complete some outstanding jobs that were delayed by the Covid pandemic.

May the Association & League continue to prosper and give a lot of pleasure to a lot of players over the coming years, and a Happy & Healthy Christmas to you all. "

5. Fixture Secretary's Report

Jason presented his report which had also been circulated to all of the clubs before the meeting.

" Due to the Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday, the Mixed matches were brought forward this year with a late April start but hopefully that didn't cause too many issues for clubs. If this was the case, starting the week earlier would make the planning of the fixtures a little easier because more time can then be assigned at the end of the Mixed season in June where rearranged matches to be moved to. As with last year, there were some issues with the fixtures for the Huntingdon and Peterborough League clashing with those of the Cambs League.

[continued overleaf]

7. League Rules

The following matter referred to in the League Secretary's report (see page 2) was considered by those present. " it was felt that there is a need for a general review of the rules insofar as the demotion arrangements are concerned and penalties by way of fines are applied. Members felt that fines were not necessarily applicable to the right people and that it was unfair on the club as a whole to pay for individual teams that were causing a problem. There was also the matter of team withdrawals during the season and in particular that of the Huntingdon "A" team (Mens Division 1) whereby they had started the season but then withdrew and are automatically relegated but have a "B" team gaining promotion that effectively restores there club's Mens Division 1 status. Unfortunately there is nothing in the present rules to avoid this but fines are of course applicable. After some debate it was decided that this matter be referred to the AGM with a view to removing all of the fine provisions under Rule 11 for conceded matches but to enhance the rule about relegation not being by relegation to the division below but demotion to the bottom division - this to be effective from next season."

Several of those attending were not happy with the Huntingdon team withdrawal and some strong feelings were expressed, and a few of those attending were not happy with the way in which the League had dealt with it either. Geoff and Jason explained the League's actions and position on this and that everything had been done to monitor and investigate the matter and action had been fully and properly taken within the present rules provision - but even these couldn't be fully implemented due to full knowledge of the situation not being identified until after the season was well under way. This was endorsed by the League Committee at its last meeting and hence the referral to this AGM for resolution. After a full and frank exchange with reference also being made to whether individual teams should be held accountable rather than clubs as a whole being penalised and the removal of all fines from the league rules, the three options were agreed to be put to the vote and carried out by a show of hands and with a simple majority decision. These were on the basis of the specific action to be taken in the case of the Huntingdon teams and the consequential rule changes arising from it :

Option 1 The rules as they currently exist be fully applied and no other changes made to the league rules ;
Option 2 ... The "A" Team is demoted to the bottom division but the "B" is still promoted (league rule change) ;
Option 3 ... The "A" Team is demoted to the bottom division and the "B" Team is not promoted. All fine provisions in the league rules be removed (league rule change).

As a result of the vote carried out **Option 3 was passed by a substantial majority .**

8. Presentation of Divisional Awards

Certificates and shields were presented by Dennis to this season's divisional winners on the following basis :

MIXED LEAGUE		MENS LEAGUE		LADIES LEAGUE	
DIVISION	WINNERS	DIVISION	WINNERS	DIVISION	WINNERS
1	STAMFORD "A"	1	STAMFORD "A"	1	STAMFORD "A"
2	ST NEOTS "A"	2	HUNTINGDON "B"	2	CITY OF PETERBOROUGH "B"
3	HEMINGFORDS "B"	3	CHATTERIS "A"	3	LONGTHORPE "B"
4	BUCKDEN "B"	4	CITY OF PETERBOROUGH "D"	4	HUNTINGDON
5	OUNDLE				

[The full League Tables were circulated to all of the clubs before the meeting]

TOP CLUB TROPHY 2022 : OUNDLE THE DON BRACE CUP 2022 : CITY OF PETERBOROUGH

As usual Photographs were taken by Geoff of all the presentations made.

9. Election of Officers and Committee

Geoff reported that no new nominations had been forthcoming by the due date* (extended to Sunday 27th * November 2022). At the last Committee Meeting it was noted that all of the existing members were willing to serve for another year with the exception of Brian Brown who was not well and therefore stepping down from any involvement on the Committee. Geoff was retiring as the Secretary but had indicated his willingness to help with the transition of his duties to a new Secretary and the Committee had accordingly nominated Geoff to fill the new post of Vice-Chairman to help with this process. The Officers and Committee Members duly elected to serve for the 2023 season were :

CHAIRPERSON

VICE-CHAIRPERSON [NEW POST]

ASSOCIATION & LEAGUE SECRETARY

TREASURER

FIXTURES SECRETARY

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dennis Vincent

Geoff Smith

Sally Pell

Jason Tuxworth

Jason Tuxworth

Esmond Edwards, Rachel Selwyn (formerly Gillett)

There are still vacancies available.

There being no further nominations these appointments were agreed by all of those present.

10. Don Brace Cup Report

A full report (prepared by Geoff) had been circulated to all of the clubs prior to the meeting - a copy has been included in the Appendices to these minutes. Dennis referred to the City of Peterborough side beating Stamford by five sets to three in the final and reiterated his report saying " With good weather the sides of the covered courts were opened and a large group of spectators enjoyed a high standard match played in a good spirit. The only downside from my point of view is that both semi-finals were conceded as these matches had a potential to provide some high quality tennis. Our thanks to City of Peterborough for making their facilities available to us for the afternoon and providing refreshments ". Dennis then read out an apology that had been received by email from John Rudd of David Lloyd the content of which was noted and accepted.

11. Any Other Relevant Business

Any other items were invited and the following matters were briefly discussed :

10.1 Match Refreshments - a question was raised (Jim Hunter) regarding next season's arrangements. After discussion, which included views on instances where long distances are travelled and dietary needs, **it was agreed** to keep to the present rule but with a 48 hour pre-match date contact requirement should refreshments be required ;

10.2 Team Players request - Jim Hunter asked members present to see if any of their over-70's players would be interested in joining a Seniors County team he was organising ;

10.3 Scorecards - Ruth Swann said that it would be a good idea if both team captains submitted a scorecard after matches but not necessarily make it a rule ;

10.4 Game determination - Vernon Reuter suggested that to help completing games under certain conditions before the start of the matches team captains could agree as to whether or not to keep to playing a 'deuce' game or revert to a 'deciding point' .

12. Close of Meeting - There being no further business to discuss the Chairman declared the meeting **closed at 9:11 pm** and wished everyone a safe journey home.

APPENDICES - FOLLOW OVERLEAF (Pages 6 and 7)

Page 6 - Copy of the audited accounts

Page 7-8 - Don Brace Cup Report

APPENDICES

ITEM 6 - TREASURER'S REPORT : COPY OF THE AUDITED ACCOUNTS

**HUNTINGDON & PETERBOROUGH TENNIS LEAGUE
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT YEAR TO 31ST OCTOBER 2022**

	2021/22		2019-2021	
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
League and Cup Fees		865		1320
EXPENDITURE				
Don Brace Expenses - Courts, Refreshments & Balls	150			
Trophies & Engraving	112		141	
League Officers - Expenses	-		329	
- Honorarium	1,000		400	
Travelling	79		22	
AGM & Committee Expenses	200		35	
Accounts Examiner	-		30	
Printing, Postage and Telephone	40		-	
Website	84		181	
		1,665		1,138
SURPLUS/DEFICIT		- 800		182

**ACCUMULATED FUND
YEAR ENDED 31ST OCTOBER 2022**

	2,021		2019-2021	
	£	£	£	£
Balance at year end (31st October)	5,313		5,131	
Add Surplus for the year	-	800	-	182
		4,513		5,313
Represent by:				
Cash at bank (20/10/22)	4,513		5,291	
Cash in hand	-		22	
		4,513		5,313

I CERTIFY that the attached Income and Expenditure Account has been prepared from the books, records, information and explanations supplied, and it is in agreement therewith.



E.J. Edwards - Examiner
01/11/2022

City of Peterborough win the Don Brace Cup



THE WINNING TEAM

together with the Hunts & Peterborough Association officials are from left to right Geoff Smith (Secretary), Iva Taylor, Katrin Turvey, Felix Beech, Alex Parker and Dennis Vincent (Chairman)



THE RUNNERS-UP

from left to right Lucy Taylor, Martin Trawford, Andrew Palliser and Sophie Walker

RESULT

CITY OF PETERBOROUGH
5 sets
STAMFORD
3 sets

DENNIS VINCENT (the competition organiser) reported :

“ With good weather the sides of the covered courts were opened and a large group of spectators enjoyed a high standard match played in a good spirit. The only downside from my point of view is that both semi-finals were conceded as these matches had a potential to provide some high quality tennis. Our thanks to City of Peterborough for making their facilities available to us for the afternoon and providing refreshments. “

Set results were as follows (Stamford Tennis Club pairs first) :

- Mixed 1 : Andrew Palliser & Sophie Walker 3 - 6, 6-3 v Felix Beech & Katrin Turvey
- Mixed 2 : Martin Trawford & Lucy Taylor 4-6, 4-6 v Alex Parker & Iva Taylor
- Ladies : Sophie Walker & Lucy Taylor 6-4, 6-4 v Katrin Turvey & Iva Taylor
- Mens : Martin Trawford & Andrew Palliser 6-7, 1-6 Felix Beech & Alex Parker

SOME ACTION PHOTOS



SOME MORE ACTION PHOTOS



Our grateful thanks to Dennis in his first year of organising this competition.

Huntingdon & Peterborough Tennis Association Committee

(ALL PHOTOS TAKEN BY GEOFF SMITH)