

NORTH SOMERSET TENNIS LEAGUE AGM MINUTES
DRAFT COPY – TO BE APPROVED AT THE 2022 AGM

7.30pm, Thursday 2nd September 2021 at Wedmore Golf Club

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The President, David Pottow, welcomed the Committee and all club representatives to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from

Simon Holloway (Priory), Paul Rees (Minehead), Athene Lane (Long Ashton), Deb Barnes (Clevedon), Frances Ball (Woodland), Steve Toovey (Victoria)

2. MINUTES

AGM 2019 Minutes were circulated prior to the meeting and accepted unanimously.

Proposed: Brent Knoll

Seconded: Trull

3. MATTERS ARISING:

None

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

See Appendix A.

Proposed: Weston

Seconded: Brent Knoll

5. SECRETARY'S REPORT

See Appendix B.

Following Jenny's notice of stepping down next year, it was announced that Chris Wilson would shadow Jenny as from the new year in preparation to take over the Secretary role from the September 2022 AGM.

Proposed: Weston

Seconded: Brent Knoll

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

See Appendix C.

Proposed: Weston

Seconded: Wedmore

7. PROPOSED CHANGES:

Rule 17. Clubs should ensure that higher prefix teams take priority over lower ones. If a club concedes, or fields an incomplete team, without just cause, when lower prefix teams play, the team conceding will be ~~withdrawn from the league and all its results to that date will be deleted. However, any team that concedes two matches during the season, will be removed from the League.~~

Rule 17. Clubs should ensure that higher suffix teams take priority over lower ones. If a club concedes, or fields an incomplete team, without just cause, when lower suffix teams play, the team conceding will be removed from the League and any team which concedes two matches during a season will similarly be removed. In both cases the removal will be immediate and all their results to that date will be deleted. Any team removed from the League can apply to be re-admitted to the bottom division in any subsequent season.

Proposed: Lympsham

Seconded: Brent Knoll

Rule 20. The Annual General Meeting shall be held in September, the date of which will be confirmed at the previous year's AGM. Any proposals to rule changes must be submitted in writing at least 21 days prior to the AGM. At the meeting, one member of each club in the league shall be allowed one vote.

Rule 20. The Annual General Meeting shall be held in September, the date of which will be confirmed at the previous year's AGM. Each club must have representation at the AGM. Any proposals to rule changes must be submitted in writing at least 21 days prior to the AGM. At the meeting, one member of each club in the league shall be allowed one vote.

Proposed: Winscombe

Seconded: Brent Knoll

Rule 22. ~~All clubs must confirm membership in writing 14 days prior to the AGM, confirming the number of teams they are entering. New teams wishing to apply for membership must also apply in writing 14 days prior to the AGM at which meeting a vote will be taken.~~ Winter League contacts must be submitted to the Secretary in writing 14 days prior to the AGM.

Rule 22. All clubs must confirm in writing the number of teams they wish to enter into the league 14 days prior to the AGM. New team applications will be approved by a vote at the AGM.

If a club wishes to reduce the number of teams they are entering, they can withdraw whichever suffix team they desire. Again, this must be done in writing 14 days prior to the AGM. To accommodate this, the divisions will be adjusted accordingly at the discretion of the committee. Winter League contacts must be submitted to the Secretary in writing 14 days prior to the AGM.

Proposed: Woodland

Seconded: Weston

PROPOSAL FROM CLEEVE LTC - NOT SUPPORTED BY THE COMMITTEE.

See Appendix D.

Cleeve's proposal was not approved at the AGM.

Proposed: Victoria

Seconded: Cheddar

Following the proposal by Cleeve it was suggested by Congresbury that **ALL** proposed rule changes - those supported and not supported by the committee - should be circulated to all clubs prior to the AGM so they have time to consider the changes. This was agreed by the committee and will be implemented next year.

8. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND OTHER OFFICERS

President:	David Pottow	Proposed: Avenue	Seconded: Cheddar
Chairman:	John Barrington	Proposed: Avenue	Seconded: Cheddar
Secretary:	Jenny Purcell	Proposed: Avenue	Seconded: Cheddar
Treasurer:	Carole Carter	Proposed: Avenue	Seconded: Cheddar

Committee: (on block)	John Barrington (Trull) Charlie Hart (Lympsham) Philip Hunt (Winscombe) Steve Toovey (Victoria) Chris Wilson (Victoria)	Proposed: Wedmore	Seconded: Weston
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9. RESIGNATIONS AND NEW APPLICATIONS

Withdrawn:

Team: Brent Knoll A	League: Mixed	Winter
Team: Lympsham B	League: Mixed	Winter
Team: Minehead B	League: Mixed	Winter

Team: Taunton A	League: Vets	Winter
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Team: Priory B	League: Mens	Summer
Team: Weston C	League: Mens	Summer
Team: N Som Academy A	League: Mens	Summer
Team: N Som Academy B	League: Mens	Summer

Team: Avenue B	League: Ladies	Summer
Team: Woodland D	League: Ladies	Summer

New Applications:

Team: Clevedon C	League: Mixed	Winter
Team: Congresbury B	League: Mixed	Winter

Team: Long Ashton A	League: Mixed	Winter
Team: Priory B	League: Mixed	Winter
Team: Winscombe C	League: Mixed	Winter
Team: Bridgwater B	League: Vets	Winter
Team: Wedmore B	League: Vets	Winter
Team: Congresbury D	League: Mens	Summer
Team: Winscombe D	League: Mens	Summer
Team: Clevedon D	League: Ladies	Summer
Team: Winscombe C	League: Ladies	Summer
Team: Congresbury B	League: Ladies	Summer
Team: Cleeve A	League: Ladies	Summer

Proposed: Weston

Seconded: Brent Knoll

10. COMPOSITION OF LEAGUES FOR 2018-19

Divisions 7 & 8 Mixed Winter League both have 5 teams in each.

11. AOB

Following the Secretary's report, Cheddar suggested introducing a penalty by way of a fine or point deduction for all clubs not meeting deadlines or specific requests set by the Secretary. This will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

Congresbury thanked the committee for running the Corona league throughout the Summer and said it was invaluable with growing their club and creating new teams.

Avenue requested to raise the minimum age for the Vets competition from 50 at time of play to 60. It was discussed and deemed unfair to current players within the age range. Congresbury suggested a more gradual approach of raising the age by two years every year. It was decided the committee would discuss this at their next committee meeting and their suggestion would be circulated to clubs prior to the 2022 AGM in preparation for a vote.

Chris Wilson of the committee asked how everyone was finding the new LTA online league. The feeling from the floor was it was a success and entering results online was a much better system.

12. PRESENTATION OF TROPHIES

Trophies from the 2019 season were presented to the winners by David Pottow.

The meeting closed at 8.39 pm.

APPENDIX A

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT September 2nd 2021

When I took this temporary position following Peter Hucker's sad death I did not realize what I was taking on again. In the past year - pandemic, lock downs, no tennis and so on.

So now we have come to a time when hopefully we can get back to some normality.

My thanks to the Committee for keeping track of the situations as they changed, and I can assure you we tried to comply with how we saw the position at the time. We had Zoom meetings to keep in touch during this period.

Also my thanks go to all clubs for understanding our situation all through the past 18 months. We offered the "Corona League" which many of you took advantage of to get some competitive matches with flexibility of rules and with no promotion or relegation at the end.

I am delighted we are starting again and notice we have an increase in the number of clubs wishing to partake. To remind you again - we took the positions in which you all finished when the pandemic took effect in March 2020. From these positions we prepared the Divisions to form those you now have in your possession.

I would like to make a comment which will help your Committee to continue the successful running of the League. When Jenny sends out any correspondence and asks for a return date, that is for a reason. In the case of the recent details for this evening, it was needed to enable us to get the divisions together, and then on line via the LTA who has its own time limits. Some clubs seemed to ignore that request and so caused more time and work to chase them. These last few weeks we had to chase 7 clubs. Thankfully you have a good Secretary who gets on with the job however frustrating. Can I please ask you to consider this point for the future.

That's my report for the past 18 months and I can now stand back and watch tennis in the North Somerset League continue to progress.

David Pottow

APPENDIX B

NSTL SECRETARY REPORT 2021

Hi Everyone,

It's been a tough time for us all over the past couple of years but it's great to see a resemblance of normality again with tonight's AGM.

I'd like to say a massive thank you to David for sticking with us through these tricky times and I'd also like to thank the committee for their ongoing support.

I really appreciate the kind emails I've received from one or two of you, supporting our decision to run the Corona League, as it wasn't a decision we took lightly. We accept we can never please everyone, but with everything that was going on it was important to us that we made everyone feel as safe and comfortable as possible. We didn't want to put pressure on any of you, but at the same time we wanted to give those who wanted to play, the opportunity to do so competitively.

I'd like to give a special thanks to Chris, not only for the support and help he's given me over the past year, but for sharing the responsibility of fielding the numerous emails and phone calls we've received. The majority of which were unnecessary, as the information required was already available on the website or in one of my emails. On the website you can find the rules, club contacts, the NSTL calendar which states all deadlines and important dates and also the instructions for entering your results into the LTA website. Between us, Chris and I are helping 23 clubs so please first make sure you don't already have the answer to your query available, and then of course, we will be happy to help.

This evening, I will be sending out the spreadsheet template for your Winter fixtures so please fill this out and return it to me as soon as possible but by the 13th September at the latest – that's a week on Monday.

Please use the spreadsheet template properly by using the drop-down lists. Don't type into it yourself. Don't print it off, fill it in by hand and then take a photo to send to me. And please don't save it as a PDF before sending it back. All these things happen each year which means I spend hours re-typing your fixtures myself. If you can't do it, find someone in your club who can.

When confirming your fixtures this evening, please double check your start times with your opposition as this seems to be where most discrepancies occur.

This year 7 clubs were late entering their teams – one I still haven't received. A further 2 clubs sent in their entries but failed to include any team contact details. I took a day's holiday from my own work so I could sit and plough through all my tennis work, only to find I couldn't get it all done because the information I needed hadn't been sent in by the deadline. I then spent my next two evenings dealing with bits as they came in late and my bank holiday weekend was ruined as I dealt with and responded to a further 21 emails.

Since I took on the role of Secretary in September 2014, I have invested hours of my time trying to make everything easier for everyone. Despite my efforts, sadly not once in those 7 years, has a single one of my requests been met by every club.

It's clearly not working. We need to change how we get information to all the clubs and make sure we're getting it to the right people. We're looking to revamp the website and use this as the main source of information rather than a constant barrage of labour-intensive emails. This way you can get the information that is relevant to you when you need it. We'll chat about this a bit more later.

Finally, I would like to let you know that I have made the decision to step down as Secretary so this will be my last year.

I'd like to wish our new Chairman the very best of luck and I hope you all have a great year of tennis.

Jenny Purcell
NSTL Secretary

APPENDIX C

NSTL Treasurers Report AGM September 2021

Firstly, my thanks and a special mention must go to David Pottow who has taken the reins as our chair for the past few years. His knowledge of the clubs & its people is so vast that we as the NSTL must be thankful to have his experience guiding us again throughout the year. Even though this last year has been one that none of us will forget.

It is a sad day that David, once again, now wishes to stand down as Chair. We thank you David for your patience & standing again for us in our time of need. You will be a tough act to follow.

Also thank you Jenny, because through this difficult year she has kept on top of all our dates & deadlines. We are so lucky to have the support we have from her. The Secretary role can sometimes be a thankless task having to chase, chase & constantly chase. But I am sure all clubs will respect that we run pretty much on the willingness of people who want this league to continue for us all to play competitive tennis. So come on let's step up to the 'service line' & get things right & on time!

I also want to thank Phil & Chris & say we are lucky to have their services, Phil manages the website & both he & Chris together have achieved NSTL going online with our results! Since my last report, not a task for the feint hearted. Great result guys.

Coming to the accounts I would mention, as you will see from the copy you all have been sent, show a loss of £572 for the year ended July 2021. This is due to the reduced subscriptions for the financial year. Down approximately £1000.

I have all the documentation with me if anyone would like to see. They have again been independently examined by Liz Ricketts (Accountant) for us.

I am not proposing any increase in fees as our LTA costs are still the same for this new season.

As you will see from the figures, we are not receiving any interest on our account, but we are also not paying any fees yet which some charity/club/society account attract. As you may be aware from your own finances interest is still a rare thing, especially on club or society accounts.

In conclusion; -

With the permission of the Chair, I am requesting acceptance of the NSTL accounts for the Year ended July 2021.

Thank you

Carole Carter
Honorary Treasurer NSTL
August 2021

APPENDIX D

Proposal to amend start time and format of ladies summer league games from Cleeve Tennis Club - August 2021. (Rule 6).

We are regularly hearing from our members that working people cannot commit to league play due to the early start time and possible very late finish. This is a specific problem for us in Cleeve as we have relatively few lady members, sadly leading us to having to withdraw from Division 1. (having lost 2 key players, we could not field a team due to the timing issue)

For people working in Bristol or surrounding areas - they seldom finish work before 5/5.30 making it impossible to even make it back to Cleeve to start at 6.30, let alone any of the away venues. Neither do working people want to play to late finishing times during the week.

Therefore we would like to propose the following options to give a wider selection of people the opportunity to play league matches :-

Option 1 - Matches to begin at 7pm and each rubber to consist of one full set, followed by Champion tie-breaks for sets 2 and 3, if needed. We would need to agree a consistent scoring method.

Or

Option 2 - a format which is used successfully in Hertfordshire. Matches begin at 7pm. Each rubber is 13 games so in total each pair play 26 games so both rubbers usually finish within a very similar time frame and it's much easier to avoid a late finish. For each match you record the score as rubbers won and total number of games which is then used to settle if a club has won the same number of rubbers. If it is tied on rubbers and games won then the head to head decides the finish position in the league.

Because 2x 13 games is more predictable as a finish time and avoids lengthy waits for the other court to finish you can move the start time to 7pm which would also allow those of working age and those with small children to play which would make the league more accessible to everyone in the area. This might increase diversity with the league This year is an ideal opportunity to trial a new format as with the relaxation in restrictions, tennis as an outdoor sport has encouraged new and returning players into the sport and it would be great to get these players into competitive play where they are interested in playing rather than putting people off because the matches start to early and they take too long to finish.

Please contact us should you want to discuss or clarify any of the ideas.

Kind Regards

Jayne Weare
Club Chair, Cleeve Tennis Club