

MINUTES OF THE 42nd CADSTL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE GROVES ON 1st NOVEMBER 2023

Apologies:

Thornton Hough, Overton, Kelsall,

Present:

John Simpson, Sue Long, Andrew Cree, Alan Hewitt, Joan Lythgoe, Pam Kloezeman, Brymbo, Cheshire Oaks, Chester, Glan Aber, Heswall, Hollies, Hoole, Hooton, Hoylake, Mold, Port Sunlight, Wrexham,

Absent:

Helsby, Tarvin, Malpas, Upton

MINUTES OF THE 2022 AGM:

These were accepted as read.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS:

John welcomed everybody to the CADSTL AGM and hoped everyone had enjoyed a fantastic season of tennis. A special welcome to Alan Lucas, who had been our previous Chairman for 28 years. John ran through the list of attendees and apologies and introduced the Committee to the meeting. He thanked Malcom Willars for continuing to run the CADSTL website (if anyone wishes to take over running this site Malcom would happily pass over this responsibility).

(<https://cadstl.wixsite.com/cadstl>)

Thanks also to Mike Beckett for running the online results system, now in its third full year, which seems to be working well, any issues being quickly dealt with through liaison with Pam. John reminded Captains that match results should be entered as promptly as possible, preferably on completion of the match, and that they should check the results are correctly entered. Consider keeping a written copy of the match results as this can be useful if there are any issues, or Captains forget to enter a result, even though this is no longer a requirement.

Again this year the Cheshire LTA (John Hilton) ran a Champions League for winners and runner ups of the six Mens and Ladies tennis leagues throughout Cheshire, held at DL Cheadle and DL Cheshire Oaks. In the mens, Hoole, and Hollies represented the CADSTL, along with Hoylake (who also represented the Wirral League). Hoylake did well and reached the semi-finals. The Ladies were represented by Hoole, as our League winners Wrexham had to pull out due to late notification, holiday and other commitments.

The format may change next year, due to the court costs. Hopefully there will be earlier notification of the Tournament dates etc., although likely to be the same weekends as the previous two years.

John informed the AGM that all the senior Cheshire Leagues will be having a (second) meeting in November to discuss common league issues.

He thanked Joan for sorting the refreshments for this evening.

SECRETARY'S COMMENTS:

Andy noted that he season ran pretty smoothly this year, with the results system working well, apart from one late season glitch with Registered players, affecting Hoole and Chester, which was quickly rectified.

He asked that clubs help to inform new Captains of the role of the League Organisers, who were responsible for issues involving their Divisions.

League entries for next season will again need to be submitted in good time, to avoid disappointment, as it looks as if all Leagues will be full next season, and we have clubs looking to enter additional teams.

The intention is to have 2024 fixtures produced by mid March, which will allow ample time for any 'problem' fixtures to be resolved, so there should be minimal need for late requests for fixture changes.

Please note there could be some disruption at Wrexham next year as there is likely to be a major redevelopment taking place at the site.

LEAGUE ORGANISERS REPORTS:

Ladies Divisions – Sue told the meeting that there had been no problems this season and no conceded matches in the Ladies Leagues. She congratulated the League winners, Wrexham, Hollies A and Overton.

The results system worked well, it was a good season all round, and well done to everyone.

Mixed Divisions- Pam reported that the Mixed Leagues worked very well this summer, under the new format, which was very well received generally. A couple of clubs preferred the previous format, but were outweighed by a clear majority in favour of the change. Congratulations to Hoole A and Hoole B, winners of Divisions 1 and 2, and to Wrexham C who won Division 3. Pam has received a lot of polite and helpful emails which she appreciated. Neston were a welcome new addition to the Mixed Leagues, gaining promotion, and have now requested a team entry in the Mens League as things went so well.

Mens and Mens Veterans Divisions – Alan told the meeting that there were a few concessions, but overall it was a good season, and congratulations to the League winners, Hoylake, Chester A and Wrexham C.

Interestingly, all 3 League winners didn't lose a match all season. The value of keeping a record of results was emphasised, as a couple of matches were not entered promptly and Captains couldn't remember the results!

The Veterans League, in its second season, was won by Heswall in the last match. We only had 5 teams, but hopefully we can get some more next season. There is a lot of interest from teams outside our normal catchment area, e.g. south Shropshire and other parts of Cheshire, but obviously distances could be a problem.

A proposal was made that dropping the age requirement to 55 might encourage more entries. This will need to be discussed and considered by the Committee.

The League will be on the online results system next season, so will be more visible to all.

A general discussion ensued as to how we might increase the entries in our Veterans League. Alan noted that playing in the Vets League, which took place during the day did not preclude players from also playing in the Mens Leagues.

The Vets is currently just for Men, but it would be good if there was Mixed and Ladies Leagues if there was sufficient interest. John asked that any interest in this be channeled through the Mixed and Ladies organisers, Pam and Sue.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Joan reported on a continued healthy financial situation, almost a mirror image of last year. Most Registration fees came in on time, its a big help if payment is made through the BACS transfer system. Please remember to add your clubs name to the reference when paying.

The healthy balance means that the fees can remain at £8 per team for another season. We are not currently paying an LTA fee.

ELECTION OF OFFICIALS— all members of the Committee agreed to serve for a further year and were voted in by the meeting.

John asked for any names who were willing to serve on the Committee to let Andy or John know. Andy and Joan both indicated that next season would be their last in their current roles. Help will be provided to anyone who takes on a role.

REVIEW OF RULES AMENDMENTS

John asked for any comments on the new Mixed League format. The overwhelming majority of respondents to Pam's email midway through the season were positive. The meeting was unanimous in agreeing to continue with the revised format.

AOB

John told the meeting that a couple of suggestions had been made which could affect the League Rules.

The first, from Amy Capstick (Chester) referred to Rules 9 and 10, which deals with the '21 day' requirement for rearranging games. Some clubs try harder than others to meet this requirement, which can put them at a competitive disadvantage against those who ignore the rule and play these games at the end of the season. Should this rule be 'enforced', or amended.

This is difficult to enforce, as frequently the League Organisers are not informed when matches have been rained off. It may be possible to rephrase the rules, by requiring rained off matches to be played as soon as possible, but before the season end i.e. the last week of the league season, although there are always games played in the first week of August, especially if rained off in the last couple of weeks of the season.

The Vets League may be more of a problem as teams have fewer players to call on.

Various suggestions were made on how the rules might be amended. It was quite a complicated matter and John concluded by promising that the Committee would consider the issues raised, and consider tweaking the rules accordingly.

The other suggestion made, from Kevin Cliffe (Cheshire Oaks) was that we should require 4 new balls per court rather than the current 3, plus suitable spare balls if needed. After a brief discussion, it was felt that no change to the current rule (which is similar to the Wirral League) was required.

The meeting also then discussed the possibility of increasing the number of teams in the 3rd Division if the League received additional registration requests. Andy noted that this would cause significant challenges to the fixture organisation and increase the season length and that light issues were already a problem at the beginning and end of the season. Adding an extra Division would be a much better solution, if we had enough entries, The Mens and Mixed Leagues both had 4 Divisions for a number of years.

Amy Capstick also suggested that where a League contained more than 1 team from a club, their matches together should be scheduled at the beginning of each round of matches. This is a good point which Andy will attempt to take on board when constructing the fixture grid for 2024.

Cheshire Oaks informed the meeting that their astro turf courts were being replaced by padel tennis

courts!

Pam floated a suggestion of a winter league being set up. The committee will consider this, any suggestions or comments please contact Pam.

Presentation of Trophies

The League Winners Trophies were presented as follows:-

Ladies

Division 1	Wrexham
Division 2	Hollies A
Division 3	Overton (not present)

Mixed

Division 1	Hoole A
Division 2	Hoole B
Division 3	Wrexham C

Mens

Division 1	Hoylake
Division 2	Chester A
Division 3	Wrexham C

Veterans Mens

Heswall

Photos of the Captains and teams receiving their Trophies were taken by Andy for inclusion on the CADSTL website.

The meeting concluded with the usual wine, cheese and biscuits.