

MINUTES OF THE 43rd CADSTL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT HELSBY COMMUNITY SPORTS CLUB ON 6th NOVEMBER 2024

Apologies:

Pam Kloezeaman, Alan Lucas, Hollies, Hoole, Kelsall, Overton, Thornton Hough

Present:

John Simpson, Sue Long, Andrew Cree, Alan Hewitt, Joan Lythgoe, Kate Goldthorpe
Brymbo, Cheshire Oaks, Chester, Glan Aber, Helsby, Heswall, Hooton, Malpas, Port Sunlight,
Tattenhall, Wrexham,

Absent:

Hoylelake, Mold, Neston, Tarvin, Upton

The Chairman opened the meeting, running through the list of attendees and apologies and introduced the Committee and Kate Goldthorpe. He thanked Helsby Community Sports Club for use of the venue. The enforced change was due to the closure of The Groves earlier this year.

MINUTES OF THE 2023 AGM:

Minutes had been distributed prior to the meeting and were accepted as read.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS:

John welcomed everybody to the CADSTL AGM and hoped everyone had enjoyed an excellent season of tennis.

Thanks were given to Malcolm Willars for running the website and to Mike Beckett for running the online results system and resolving any issues and errors working with Pam. The Vets league results are now also on the website. Further thanks were given to Joan for providing the AGM refreshments. The Leagues have run well this year. There is a reliance on Captains submitting results promptly and checking details. A reminder was given that all captains should make themselves fully aware of the league rules. The committee do not want to be too dictatorial and strive to be a friendly league but do require the teams to follow the rules. If you have any questions or queries these should be sent directly to the league organisers, Sue, Pam and Alan. John attended a Cheshire LTA meeting of all leagues in the county where information was distributed regarding leagues becoming "LTA approved". The CADSTL committee are considering this. This would mean that all clubs must be an LTA approved venue, which would not exclude any of the current clubs. Should this move be considered the right one, clubs will be advised and asked to confirm.

The Cheshire Champions League again took place this year. CADSTL were represented in the Mens competition by Hoole and Hoylelake. The winners were Congleton with Croftside runners up. In the Ladies, Wrexham represented CADSTL with Widnes winning and Lymm runners up.

SECRETARY'S COMMENTS:

Andy discussed some of the rule changes that have been made since the last AGM.

- Rule 3, the age for participation in the Vets league has been reduced from 60 to 55.
- Rearranged matches are to be played as soon as possible. Whilst in ideal circumstances this would be within 21 days, club circumstances may make this an impossible request. Rule 9 is for weather related postponements, rule 10 for the inability to fulfil a fixture for other reasons.

2024 ran well with no huge backlog despite the poor weather. Players and Captains were congratulated on the help and organisation in achieving this.

A change that was made to the fixtures this year, which appears to have worked well, is that clubs with more than one team in the same division, were scheduled to play each other at the beginning of the season

The arrangement of fixtures is becoming harder particularly with the number of teams and with clubs playing across the 3 sections. Inevitably clashes may occur, however this is not a valid reason for rearranging. Before entering teams, clubs should ensure that should a clash occur, they can cover all matches at one time.

Registrations for 2025 must be submitted by the end of January 2025. We do have a waiting list for places but preference will be given to those already in the league, if the application is received in time.

Questions raised:

With regards to those clubs on the waiting list, the question was raised as to how we could accommodate them without having to wait a significant time. Andy responded that most years one or two teams to withdraw allowing space for those on the waiting list. It may be possible to set up a mini league or should there be enough applicants a further division created. It is not ideal to change the number of teams in a division as this affects promotions and relegations. The situation will be reviewed shortly after the deadline for applications has passed.

Rob Bennett asked for clarity regarding women playing in mens teams. Rule 4 clearly states that each team shall consist of four players, in the mens division this is 4 men players, in the ladies division this is 4 lady players and mixed is 2 ladies and 2 men.

John was asked if we were to become an LTA approved league would this mean that results would affect players WTN rating. He responded that this was a possibility but not essential unless the League were to use the LTA software for results.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The forecast Income and Expenditure Accounts were available on the evening. Joan reported that the largest expense was for the Shield engraving and the Replica shields. As the engraved shields are only on display for the presentations once a year, this usage is to be considered by the committee and possible alternatives considered.

An additional cost this year is room hire for the AGM.

The finances are healthy and as such the entry fees are to remain at £8 per team for the forthcoming season.

It was confirmed by John that no LTA fee would be incurred if we were to become an LTA approved league.

LEAGUE ORGANISERS REPORTS:

Ladies Divisions – Sue told the meeting that the season had run smoothly with only a few minor queries that were easily resolved. Most matches were played with just a couple of walkovers and all captains were good with submitting results on time. Congratulations to Wrexham as winners of Division 1, Chester A Division 2 and Malpas Division 3.

Mens and Mens Veterans Divisions – Alan congratulated Hoole A, Division 1 winners, Hoole B, Division 2 winners, Cheshire Oaks, Division 3 winners and Heswell winning the Mens Vets. The

divisions have been pretty competitive without many concessions and few point deductions. Alan advised that should a match be postponed for more than a couple of weeks then it isn't possible to submit the results directly on the system – they should send the results directly to Alan who will then enter them.

Jo Ellis (Helsby) asked if there was space for additional Vets teams and Alan confirmed that currently yes although not all applications have been received for the forthcoming season.

Pam has contacted clubs about a mixed Vets league for which there has been interest shown from 3 or 4 clubs.

Mixed Divisions- Pam's report, presented by John, commented that thanks to the cooperation between the Captains and herself, all minor issues were resolved within the rules. The online results system ensured that all could closely follow the progress of all clubs. Again, it was reiterated that teams should read and understand the CADSTL rules and the importance of entering results immediately. Thanks were given for the appreciative comments received. One of the benefits of the online results system is that players performance figures are available for all to see – this year there have been some exceptional performances with a number of players barely dropping a set. Looking at those at the top playing 12 or more Rubbers across the 3 divisions those that had been noted were Buddug James, Will Ainge, Rachel Twiss, Max Enston, Ruby Roberts, Olivia Talbot Priestley, Callum Atkinson, Steph Shikkel and Jason Long. Congratulations to the overall Mixed League winners Hoole A with Wrexham A as runners up, 2nd Division winners Cheshire Oaks A and runners up Neston and 3rd Division winners Hooton with Hoole C as runners up. It was noted that Neston who entered the League in 2022 have now had 2 consecutive promotion winning seasons.

ELECTION OF OFFICIALS

After 8 years Andy will step back and Kate Goldthorpe has agreed to take on the secretarial role with Andy supporting. The committee supports this. All other members remain the same. The proposal was put forward by Jo Ellis and seconded by Amy Capstick. This was agreed unanimously by the meeting.

It was noted that if anyone is interested or they know anyone who may be interested, in joining the committee, they should contact Kate or John for further information. Applicants very welcome.

AOB

Vanessa Arden (Malpas) requested clarification on matches being playing on multi use game area (MUGA) courts. It was agreed that this is not acceptable and a new rule will be introduced.

Mark Honey (Chester) requested a review of the scoring in matches to increase the incentive to win in 2 sets, similar to the Wirral league. This was not agreed

Jo Ellis (Helsby) asked for clarification regarding the splitting of points when matches finished early due to light. The rules were discussed and will be reviewed to ensure clarity of the additional half point for a 3rd set not being played.

It was requested that teams should not have a long warm up knock up, particularly when light may be an issue to resolve the issue of incomplete matches. With a 6:15pm start this should be no more than 10 minutes.

Sue Britton (Glan Aber) asked if it was possible, that following a large change in players (Mens A), for a team to decline a promotion place. This will be considered when the league and fixtures are determined.

Presentation of Trophies

The League Winners Trophies were presented to those attending as follows: -

Ladies

Division 1	Wrexham
Division 2	Chester A
Division 3	Malpas

Mixed

Division 1	Hoole A
Division 2	Cheshire Oaks A
Division 3	Hooton

Mens

Division 1	Hoole A
Division 2	Hoole B
Division 3	Cheshire Oaks

Veterans Mens

Heswall

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

The meeting concluded at 20:40 with the usual wine, cheese and biscuits following.