

## **EAST CHESHIRE WINTER TENNIS LEAGUE**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 8.00 pm. on Thursday April 29<sup>th</sup> 2010 at The Heatons Sports Club, Green Lane, Heaton Moor, Stockport, SK4 2NF**

### **In Attendance**

Charles Steele (Committee), Stuart Lilly (Committee)  
Rosa Sheard (Bramhall Queensgate), Val Cording (Cheadle Kingsway),  
Ian Woolfenden (Didsbury), Anna Perry (Ryecroft), Wendy Tonge (Hazel Grove),  
Brian Steeles (Hazel Grove), Peter Moran (Prestbury), Jenny Spencer (Heaton Mersey),  
Henry Schofield (Priory), Steve Cranshaw (Bramhall Lane), Liz Jordan (West Heaton),  
Peter Jordan (West Heaton), Helen Sawyer (Knutsford), Jan Gibson (Knutsford),  
Sally Mawford (Poynton), Lis Bevan (Albert), Howard Levitt (Brabyns), Liz Harris (Lindow),  
Val Oakley (Glossop Pyegrove), Dennis Mok (Hale), Paul Siedlecki (Club AZ),  
Abi Harris (Whalley Range), Gwen Newman (Macclesfield), Peter Newman (Macclesfield).

### **Welcome**

Charles Steele welcomed the Club representatives and thanked Heaton Mersey for use of the venue.

Apologies had been received from the following people:-

Anne Steele (Committee), Kevin O'Neill (Sale), Mike McNulty (Mellor),  
Trudy Broadhead (Mellor), Andrew Tattersall (Bowdon), Paddy McElroy (Darley),  
Jannette Harris (Lymm), Rosie Jeffery (Claremont), Vivienne Green (Poynton),  
Chris Kneen (Priory), Janet Tierney (Priory)

### **Administrator's Report**

Charles Steele presented the report on the season's playing activities and matters related to administration of the League. (Copy attached)

### **Finance Report**

The Finance Report was presented. It was suggested that the subscription remains at £6 per team for the coming season.

Proposer – Hazel Grove, Seconder – Cheadle Kingsway. Carried

### **Amendments to Constitution**

The Administrator presented suggested changes to the rules. (See attached)  
After discussion these were agreed with minor amendments as shown.

### **Election of Officers**

No nominations for Officers had been received. Charles Steele agreed to continue as Administrator for the coming season, assisted by Stuart Lilly and Anne Steele.

### **Divisional Trophies**

Presentation of trophies to Division Winners was made by Stuart Lilly

Meeting closed at 9.15pm

# East Cheshire Winter League

## Report on 2009-10 Season

In June 2009 it looked as if there may not be a Winter League for the coming season. Through the efforts of Anne Steele and Stuart Lilly lobbying clubs, a new organisation was put together at short notice. I circulated clubs for entries and meanwhile Carol Pearson managed to get a reasonably accurate set of results for the previous year, which were used to draw up divisions.

Thanks to assistance from Gwen and Peter Newman, fixtures for the season were produced and the Fixtures Meeting was held just in time to get the season underway at the beginning of October.

All seemed to be going well until mid December, when we were hit by the worst winter weather for nearly 30 years. About 5 weeks were lost straight off to rain and snow. Things didn't really get back into full swing until mid February. By this time about 20% of matches had been rearranged, some of them 4 times. Most matches were played by the end of March, but a few were carried over until early April.

Despite the weather nearly 95% of matches were eventually played. Reasons are known for most of the conceded matches, some because of late injury or illness, but a significant number were called off because of difficulties in raising a team. No penalties have been imposed this season, but conceded matches can have a distorting effect on the final league positions, so we need to consider if any sanctions should be applied in future, or whether conceded matches should be taken into account when determining promotion issues.

Almost 1300 players took part in the matches, average appearances per player were 3.5. Despite over 4500 player appearances being logged, there were only about 8 breaches of the player eligibility rules. These were all relating to the playing up and playing down, and none affected promotion or relegation issues. Under the proposed amendments, only 2 or 3 instances would have breached to new rules.

One of my main problem this season has been poorly completed Match Cards. Nearly 1/3 of all cards were incomplete in some way, or had names not clearly written. I managed to crack most of them, even the one with no team names or division number, but it does make the job at this end more difficult. If fines were charged in the same way as the NEC league I would have made about £1000. Could I also remind you that cards need to be sent in promptly. The information on the website is only as good as that I receive from the teams.

I have proposed a change to the rule regarding rearranged matches, making responsibilities and timescales for making new arrangements clearer. In some instances I didn't know that a new date had been fixed until a Match Card arrived. Could you please keep us in the picture if you have to cancel due to weather.

Finally, I would like to thank all Club Contacts and Team Captains for their efforts in getting through the season in what were very trying circumstances due to the bad weather. Without your efforts we would have no League.

Charles Steele  
League Administrator  
23 April 2010

## East Cheshire Winter League

### Divisional Champions 2009-10

	<b>Winners</b>	<b>Runner Up</b>
Division 1	Brabyns 1 *	Northern 1
Division 2	Ryecroft 2	Mere 1
Division 3	Club AZ1	Bramhall Park 1
Division 4	Hazel Grove 1	Heyes Grove 1
Division 5	Bramhall Lane 3	Darley 1
Division 6	Cheadle Kingsway 1 *	Heaton Mersey 1
Division 7	Lymm 1 *	Northern 3
Division 8	Lymm 2 *	Whalley Range 2 *
Division 9	Claremont 1	High Legh 1
Division 10A	Lymm 3 *	Hale 3 *
Division 10B	Club AZ 3 *	Darley 3

\* Undefeated

Congratulations to Brabyns who won a close fought Division 1. At the beginning of March there were still 5 teams in with a chance of being Champions.

The top of all divisions was very close, with 2 being decided on sets difference and all but one could have changed on the outcome of a single match, four on the outcome of one set, and in one case by a tiebreak in the last set of the match between the top two teams.

## East Cheshire Winter League

### Finance Report as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010

#### Income

Entry Fees – 122 teams @ £6	732.00	<u>732.00</u>
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#### Expenditure

Printing	108.60	
Stationery	35.28	
Postage / internet / website	45.27	
Assistance with fixtures (Charity donation)	25.00	
Trophies	139.15	
Meeting rooms, etc – donations to clubs	50.00	
Misc expenses	10.00	<u>413.30</u>

#### Balance

Bank	267.85	
Cash	50.85	<u>318.70</u>

The figures above represent Income and Expenditure from July 2009 to 31 March 2010. The projected expenditure for a full year will be approximately £500.

Assuming that we have around 100 teams taking part, it is recommended that the entry fee should remain at £6 per team, as this will cover all expenses and leave a small surplus for contingencies.

# East Cheshire Winter Tennis League

Amendments to Constitution and Match Rules

## 10. Structure

Sentence to be added to restrict the number of teams that clubs can have in any one division.

The League shall consist of a number of divisions generally consisting of 11 teams. Each team shall consist of two men and two ladies.

**No club shall have more than two teams in the same division.**

*Proposer – Knutsford, Secunder – Heaton Mersey. Carried*

## 11. Player eligibility

Clause 11.1

Date for eligibility to be changed from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2009 to the commencement of each season

11.1 Anyone who has played for their county team at senior level in the Winter County Cup, or at County Week during the five years prior to ~~1 October 2009~~ **the commencement of each season** is ineligible to play. This does not apply to 35 and over County competitions.

*Proposer – Knutsford, Secunder – Bramhall Queensgate. Carried*

Clause 11.3

Proposed amendment to Playing Up rule to give more flexibility.

Delete

11.3 A person may play twice for one higher team of the same club during the season.

Substitute

**11.3 A person may play for higher teams of the same club on two occasions during the season. A player who plays for higher teams on more than two occasions may not then revert to the lowest team that they have played for. The club must advise the Administrator of the team in which that player will play in any future matches.**

*Proposer – West Heaton, Secunder – Albert. Carried*

Proposed new clause regarding players at clubs with two teams in the same division.

**11.4 Where a club has two teams in same division, the team captains shall, before the first match, advise the Administrator which players will normally play in which team. Players will otherwise be regarded as being members of the teams for which they regularly played during the previous season.**

*Following discussion it was decided not to insert this clause.*

## 12. Fixtures

Proposed change for clubs with two teams in the same division to make the match between them the first one to be played by those teams.

Each team will play the other teams in the division once during the season. Matches will be played on the day and at the time agreed at the Fixture meeting and as advised to the Administrator. ~~If a club has two teams in the same division, the match between those teams shall be played by the end of October.~~

***If a club has two teams in the same division, the match between those teams shall be the first match played by them.***

*Proposer – Priory, Secunder –Whalley Range. Carried*

## **18. Postponement**

Proposed clarification of procedure for re-arranging matches postponed due to bad weather.

### Delete existing clause:-

If it is not possible to play a match because of bad weather, the home captain must give 3 other dates captains must re-arrange the match and inform the Administrator of the new fixture date within 7 days of the cancelled fixture.

### Insert new clause

***If it is not possible to play a match because of bad weather, the home captain must, within 7 days of the original date, inform the Administrator and offer 3 other dates to the away captain. The captains must re-arrange the match and the home captain must inform the Administrator of the new fixture date within 14-21 (\*1) days of the cancelled fixture.***

***If the home captain does not offer three dates within the 7 days then away the captain must inform Administrator. If the away captain does not respond within 7 days of new dates being offered, the home captain must advise the Administrator of the name of the person contacted.***

\*1 After discussion it was proposed that the time of 14 days should be increased to 21 days

It was also proposed that an additional sentence be added

***“Failure to re-arrange the match within the times shown will be dealt with under Rules 27 and 28.”***

*Proposer – Macclesfield, Secunder –Heaton Mersey. Carried*

## **Proposed new Clause 20**

### **20 Conceded matches**

***A team conceding a match shall receive a one point deduction.***

***A team conceding a second match shall receive a further two points deduction.***

***A team conceding three matches shall be automatically relegated, and all of their results for that season deleted.***

A high number of matches are being conceded in some divisions. This is having a distorting effect on the league positions and affecting the outcome of promotion and relegation issues.

*Proposer – Priory, Secunder –Cheadle Kingsway. Carried*

Existing clauses 20 to 28 will be renumbered as clauses 21 to 29 as a result of the above amendments

Charles Steele  
29th April 2010