



TENNIS MK AGM 2015

(Draft to be approved at next AGM)

Minutes of the Tennis MK AGM held on Wednesday 4 March 2015 at 7.30pm in the Function room, David Lloyd, Newlands, Milton Keynes.

Present: Peter Tolaini (Vice Chair), Bob Poole (Secretary), Anne Harris (League Secretary), Kathy Sumpter (MK), Tony Johnston (MK), Sue Soul (Gilpin), Liz Murdoch (Gilpin), Jan Taylor (Stony Stratford), Mary Hartley (Newport Pagnell), Anne Saunders (Newport Pagnell), Trish Church (MK), John Taylor (Stony Stratford), David Milligan (Woburn Sands), Wendy Prince (Woburn Sands), Anne Thomas (Vagabonds), David Thomas (David Lloyd), Angela Redgewell (Gilpin), Jo Woodward (Wolverton), David Massey (Open University), Eleanor Carter (Olney).

1. **Apologies for absence:** David Higgs (Treasurer), John Cavill (Stony Stratford), Peter Wrigley (Padbury), Tony Carr (David Lloyd), Lindsay Chadd (Stewkley).
2. **Minutes of 2014 AGM:** These had been circulated in advance and were agreed by those in attendance (proposer David Milligan, seconded by Kathy Sumpter). No matters arising.
3. **League Secretary's report:**

Anne Harris had kindly provided the following written report which was circulated at the meeting:

Winter tennis started in 84/85 introducing medley matches at weekends under floodlights! So, we managed to complete the winter 13/14 without any problems. All six Divisions were won by different clubs; Newport Pagnell A, Wolverton A, Winslow A, Buckingham A, Open University A and Milton Keynes E. Only Divisions 2 and 6 were close.

Summer 2014 (1968), Milton Keynes A retained Division 1, Only Division 2 had unplayed matches. Titles spread amongst the Clubs but must congratulate Padbury, our newest club on its first trophy, Open 6. Also a rejuvenated

Buckingham taking Open 4 and Mixed 3. Welcomed new Ladies Great Linford B but Stewkley withdrew from Mixed Division 3.

The main Summer problem is the reluctance of Captains to play internal matches to schedule (Rule 19) and to inform of new dates.

The Knock-Out Cup (1981, 83) new format for Men's 1&2, 3&4, 5&6. Ladies as usual. 1st rounds played to schedule dates. Finals saw Milton Keynes A retain Divisions 1&2, Olney A new winners of 3&4, whilst Newport Pagnell B were the first champions of Divisions 5&6. In Ladies 1&2, David Lloyd A and Ladies 3&4 Olney B held on to trophies won in 2013 – a great achievement.

The September Presentation with less Junior trophies was more subdued than 2013. Would still like to see more Captains of winning Senior teams.

Fixtures and Match Secretaries have been circulated for Summer 2015. Knock-Out Cup draws and Captains to follow.

League entries are received by the League Secretary, fixtures prepared, circulated and results monitored by the Committee and the website leading to Finals Day and end of season tables. However, it is imperative to have committee members responsible for the supporting activities – the social side of Finals Day, collecting back and re-engraving the Trophies, Presentation Evening etc.

Finally, I thank the Club Match Secretaries and Captains for their support.

Anne Harris
Adult League Secretary

Advisory vote: The meeting was asked whether the summer KO Cup competition (Men's) should remain as per 2014, namely Divisions 1&2, 3&4, 5&6 or return to Divisions 1-3 and 4-6. It was decided to stick with the three cup format adopted in 2014.

Tennis MK Secretary Bob Poole delivered the following oral report:

As outgoing Secretary I want to give my thanks to all members of the committee, club contacts and others I have worked with over the past four years.

(a) Improved communications

In recent years we have taken steps to improve communications between Tennis MK and participating clubs. The Tennis MK website is now the primary source of information. The site contains links to the fixtures and the online scoring system plus scorecards for captains which are amended for each season. Key dates such as the finals day and presentation evening are posted, often months in advance.

We have also re-formatted fixture lists, captains' lists etc and thanks must go to NHBC who were sponsoring us and provided admin support to undertake this important task. We have also used our website to create email circulation lists so that information can be sent out directly to club contacts, match secretaries and team captains. The advantage of this is that messages go directly and instantly to those people who need to know e.g. when a captain's contact details have been updated. This direct communication has included information for captains on how to use the online scoring system, League Rules etc. As a consequence we have experienced fewer 'unknown player' situations although we have continued to monitor these every few weeks, including checking the notes system and amending accordingly. John Taylor suggested that the names of all the players in a match should be recorded on the scorecard before play starts which was agreed as the best approach to be adopted by captains.

(b) Vets Social tennis

These free sessions for those aged 50+ began in 2013 and continued through 2014. Overall they have been very well supported. Sessions were held at Stony Stratford, Milton Keynes, Newport Pagnell, Olney and Wolverton. As take-up has remained very good, Tennis MK is happy to continue promoting these sessions which will return later during March 2015 and will be advertised on the website. A very big thank you goes to all those at the aforementioned clubs for their support in making these such enjoyable occasions.

(c) Local Singles League

The tie-in with the Local Tennis League has worked well. This competition is promoted via the website and provides another opportunity for singles play administered entirely by Local Tennis League. There have been 8 rounds so far and each one a success. There is no reason for Tennis MK not to continue supporting this initiative.

(d) Discipline and complaints

During the past 12 months there have been three matters dealt with formally under the discipline and complaints procedure. These involved three different clubs and all related to Rule 14(a). All were investigated and sanctions applied (sets/points lost etc). In-club fixtures which must be played first in the season are currently a cause for concern as mentioned by Anne.

Bob Poole
Secretary, Tennis MK

4. Vice Chairman's report & Junior report: Peter Tolaini had kindly provided the following report which was circulated at the meeting:

Thanks to all the Clubs Captains and players for making TMK work and ensuring its continued success. Big thanks to the committee for all their tremendous commitment and incredible hard work which has allowed TMK to be so successful.

However, TMK over the next 2 years is facing some major decisions which could, in the worst case scenario, culminate in the Leagues folding despite their success. Another solution could be employing an organisation to run the leagues for TMK, with in all probability an increase in fees.

The committee is dwindling we have been without a chairman for the last 12 months, this year we are losing our secretary so the committee is even smaller. The work that must be done is being shared by an even smaller number of committee members and we also have other lives.

We do want more "working" committee members but we are also happy to have help with certain jobs and not ask you to serve on the committee, the jobs are to maintain the web page, helping at the presentation, organising the trophies, helping on finals day, publicity. *(Dave Thomas stated that Tony Carr had said he may be able to do the fixtures using a computer based system. Peter said he would discuss this with Tony. Jo Woodward suggested that the clubs be emailed with a list of things to be done where support was required).*

If this is not addressed, then the first change will be the that fixture dates will not be set for you but a fixture meeting will be organised as Bucks Shield and you will be organising them, this may happen anyway. Another definite change will be that like Bucks Shield, all fixtures will be set for say 1st October this winter and the clubs will have to change the dates themselves on the Online Scoring site.

Certainly the big clubs should support Tennis MK better than they are or have done in the past, its open to you all and the committee are happy to listen to your views, ideas, comments and complaints. *(Peter emphasised orally that clubs have two years at maximum to decide on the future of Tennis MK as without additional support, the options appear limited to folding the organisation or contracting out to a 3rd party at increased cost)*

On a personal note I also want TMK to take a lead in MK with regards to the promotion of tennis but again this requires working committee members.

Peter Tolaini
Vice Chairman and Junior Organiser

Peter also explained that the junior leagues had not been a success over the winter. As a result of lack of support for the junior competitions in the past few years, Tennis MK had decided not to run any junior leagues above the U10 level during summer 2015. Peter had prepared a letter for Junior Organisers which was distributed **(see appendix A below)**.

5. **Treasurer's report:** The 2014 accounts were circulated in advance **(see appendix B below)**. Our Treasurer, David Higgs was unable to attend the meeting but provided the following written report:

Many apologies for missing the AGM and I hope the accounts in front of you provide sufficient information. Comments I would make are as follows: Presentation and drinks for 2013 did not show in the accounts due to the late presentation of the invoice. Had they been presented in 2013 the surplus would have been only £180.98. As a result the loss in 2014 would now be a small surplus of £37.81 and this despite no funding from the NHBC. As a result of this Tennis MK will no longer be able to give grants to clubs. We will no longer be paying for the website for Tennis Works. Our turnover is reduced by the lower cost of Wimbledon tickets.

Bob offered the following additional explanatory comments as David was unable to attend: In addition to the presentation night costs for 2013 (£152.73) which were carried into 2014, there was a one-off website domain registration fee (£161.25) which auto-renewed in 2014. This had been agreed four years ago. Having taken professional IT advice, it is now deemed unnecessary and John Cavill has been asked to discontinue the auto-renewal function so no such costs should arise in future. We should bear in mind that Tennis MK suffered losses in 2011 and 2012 of £1100 and £880 respectively. So, overall Tennis MK has now managed its costs to break-even (despite the falling-away of our sponsorship from NHBC) and can continue to break even on the current basis.

6. **Election of Officers:**

The following were re-elected en-bloc:

Chair: (Vacant)

Vice-chair: Peter Tolaini

Secretary: (Vacant)

Treasurer: David Higgs

7. **Election of Management Committee members :**

The following were re-elected en-bloc:

Anne Harris, Kathy Sumpter, Tony Johnston and Gail Fulcher.
Further support from participating Clubs would be welcome.

Anne Harris stated that she was willing to act as League Secretary until March 31st and would review things then, but if anyone wanted to take on this role, she would be happy to hand it on.

It was noted that Gail Fulcher may not be able to participate on the committee due to various circumstances and that we would await an indication from her either way when she is in a position to let us know.

8. **AOB:**

None.

Meeting closed at approximately 8.35pm.

Appendix A



Dear Junior Organiser,

As you may know Tennis MK (TMK) has organized and run junior leagues in Milton Keynes for many years, covering all the age categories including the last few years, mini tennis. All of this was supported by most of the clubs within the Tennis MK area.

However, over the last three years few, in fact we were down to four, clubs have supported the leagues, despite many attempts to involve clubs. Therefore it is with regret that this summer 2015 TMK will not organize or run any junior leagues above the U10 level, we believe at U10 we still have the interest albeit only four clubs.

What we don't understand is with the LTA's RCJ scheme which I personally believe is a ludicrous decision which has in all probability been to the detriment of the TMK junior leagues, why clubs don't take the opportunity to play in the TMK leagues to help their figures??

The TMK junior leagues were and still are for beginners, 11.2's, 10.2's etc to help them on their road to competitive tennis but it would seem that the junior organisers in clubs don't place any value on our junior leagues or is it something else?

We therefore want your opinions on what, if anything, you want from TMK regarding junior leagues. We will be sending out a questionnaire and will run a workshop to try and "reignite the flame" and get these junior leagues up and running again, if that is what you want. If not this will be the end of it!

I would just add, please remember, whilst the vet's side of tennis may be flourishing, you need youngsters to eventually become vet's and we are in danger of losing many club standard youngsters as they have no competition. I am not talking about those who want to become high rated players, county players or the next Andy Murray, most of those won't play for your club in the TMK senior leagues.

So please let us know what you want us to do.

Finally, we will try and encourage clubs to play friendly's during summer 2015, so that our youngsters are still able to play and get used to representing their clubs, after all they are our future team players. If you are interested, please let me know.

Peter Tolaini
TMK Junior Organiser
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peter.tolaini@btinternet.com

Appendix B**TENNIS MK**

Income and Expenditure Account	Year ending	31st Dec. 2014
Income	2014	2013
Summer League fees, Senior	£1,390.00	£1,406.00
Summer League fees, Junior	£19.00	£112.00
Winter League fees Junior	£0.00	£0.00
Junior Tournaments	£0.00	£0.00
Winter League 'Senior	£482.00	£500.00
Wimbledon Tickets	£448.00	£654.00
Hall Refund	£0.00	£12.00
Sponsor NHBC	£0.00	£500.00
Bank Interest	£0.00	£0.00
Total	£2,339.00	£3,184.00
Expenditure		
League Secretary Admin (2012&2011)	£0.00	£52.53
Bucks LTA Fees	£30.00	£0.00
Ball Purchases	£72.00	£86.28
Trophies & Engraving	£270.46	£418.29
Wimbledon Tickets	£448.00	£654.00
Finals Expenses	£78.00	£75.61
Court Hire (Stony Stratford)	£50.00	£50.00
Drinks Bar AGM	£110.75	£0.00
Sports Council (MK)	£25.00	£25.00
Auditor	£0.00	£0.00
Presentation Drinks Etc 2014.	£75.00	£0.00
Tennis MK Grant	£150.00	£575.00
Website Tennis MK	£266.94	£252.59
Website On Line Scoring	£473.79	£556.99
Hall Presentation	£100.00	£100.00
Website Tennis Works	£161.25	£0.00
Presentation Drinks Etc 2013	£152.73	£0.00
Refund	£0.00	£4.00
Committee Meetings	£0.00	£0.00
Total	£2,463.92	£2,850.29
Surplus/Deficit at 31st Dec	-£124.92	333.71
Bank Balance at 31st Dec 2014	£3,830.12	£3,955.04
Prepared by D Higgs Treasurer		Audited and found correct