



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Dorset Tennis held at 6.30 pm on Thursday 17th November 2023 at East Dorset Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club

Present

Richard Henshaw (Chair), Kevin Croydon (Treasurer), Nick Chapman (Hon Secretary), Annie Smith (County Administrator), Rob Booth (12 and over Head County Coach), Debbie Hale (11 and under Head County Coach), David Walrond (Dorset LTA Councillor) Steve Davies (Exec Committee member), Annie Mitchener (Exec Committee member), David Lloyd (Exec Committee member), Boyd Brackstone (Men's Seniors County Captain.) Clubs Represented by individuals attending: Broadstone Tennis Club, David Lloyd Club Poole, David Lloyd Club Ringwood, Donhead Tennis Club, Dorchester Tennis & Squash Club, East Christchurch Tennis Club, East Dorset Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, Ferndown Tennis Club, Hale Gardens Tennis Club, Marnhull Tennis Club, Milford Tennis & Squash Club, Pugs Hole, Sherborne Tennis Club, Shiillingstone Tennis Club, Southbourne Tennis Club, St Sebastian Tennis Academy, St Leonards and St Ives Tennis Club, Swanage Tennis Club, Sway Tennis Club, Victoria Avenue Lawn Tennis Club, The West Hants Club, Weymouth Tennis Club, Winton Tennis Club

1. Apologies for absence: John Feaver Honorary President, Jenny Watts Ladies ` Seniors Captain

2. Minutes of the 2022 AGM

These were approved, with the correction that Ricky Taylor was representing Ferndown TC rather than Southbourne TC.

3. Incorporation.

Nick Chapman gave a verbal update on plans for the incorporation of Dorset Tennis (aka Dorset LTA). He said that the Executive Committee was convinced that Dorset Tennis should become an incorporated organisation, for a number of reasons, but especially to protect volunteers from unreasonable levels of personal liability. He said that rather than to ask for member clubs to approve a plan at the AGM, further research was to be undertaken and an Extraordinary General Meeting would be called during 2024 when plans were sufficiently detailed to be put to member clubs for approval.

4. To receive the Chair's report

Richard Henshaw gave a verbal report to members. He asked members to remember Pat Newman, an Honorary Vice President of Dorset Tennis, who had recently passed away. Pat had done a terrific amount of volunteer work for Dorset Tennis and for East Dorset LTCC. He also remembered Derek Hayes, who had been a great supporter of Dorset Tennis and also of Southbourne Tennis Club.

Richard thanked Richard Irwin who was standing down after many years as the Men's County Captain. He would be a hard act to follow. Arrangements were in hand to find a new Men's Captain.

He also thanked Diane Shields, who had recently stood down from the Dorset Tennis Executive Committee after great service organising competitions. He also thanked all the members of the Dorset Tennis Executive Committee who all did much unseen but vital work to support tennis in the county.

He drew attention to the fact that Dorset now had two 'World Champions' in Boyd Brackstone and Pauline Fisher.

Finally, he asked members to join him in thanking Kevin Croydon, who was standing down as Treasurer after 15 years service to the county, and more years than that as a volunteer for his various clubs. Kevin was the model volunteer – highly competent, very hard-working and ultra-reliable. He made a presentation on behalf of Dorset Tennis to Kevin and to Kevin's wife Jenny, and warmly wished them both well for the future.

5. To congratulate the 2023 Dorset Tennis Award winners

Richard Henshaw congratulated the winners of the 2023 LTA Tennis Awards, and presented the winners with their certificates:

CLUB OF THE YEAR
Broadstone Tennis Club

PERFORMANCE COACH OF THE YEAR
Catherine Lawson

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
Sue White

OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR
Peter Grimsdale

SCHOOL OF THE YEAR
Talbot Heath School

PARK VENUE OF THE YEAR
Branksome Park Tennis

6. To receive the Treasurer's report

Kevin Croydon presented the audited annual accounts (see copy attached as paper 1 to these minutes) and his written report (attached as paper 2)

He drew attention to the fact that the County had received a grant from the national LTA in the year of £65k. This now replaced the system of County's receiving the subscriptions from members clubs (a mere £18k for Dorset). So, the County was better off under the new system. He pointed out that the new grant came with strings attached, and the county had to show that it was spending the grant well, and was achieving the objectives expected of it by the LTA.

He also drew attention to the sponsorship income that the County had been able to generate. This amounted to £50k in the year – which exceeded previous years.

This meant that the county had had a relatively generous amount of money to spend in 2023. In his view the money we had spent had been spent well. The county had made a small surplus (of just under £7k) in the year.

He drew attention to a technical change – that the Dorset Tournament fund had now been incorporated into the general reserves.

He made special point of thanking Annie Smith, for all of her hard and diligent work in the County Office, and to the auditors for their work. Finally he wished Brian Cooley well as his successor.

The motion to adopt the accounts and to reappoint the auditors (Simpson Associates) was proposed by Kevin Croydon and seconded by Nick Chapman. The motion was approved unanimously.

7. To receive a report from Dorset's LTA Councillor

David Walrond presented his report to the meeting (written report attached as paper 2). He said that it was his role as Dorset's LTA Councillor to act a communicator, both from the tennis community in Dorset to the LTA and vice versa. His report summarised much of the activity, new initiatives and priorities of the LTA during 2023.

He felt that there were lots of highlights for Dorset players during the year, including Lucy Shuker and Toby Samuel. He felt that tennis in Dorset was on the up, with record numbers playing tennis, and with access to park sites improved.

8. To receive short reports on Dorset Tennis activities during the year:

Performance Tennis

Both Rob Booth and Debbie Hale gave good summaries of the performance of the junior county teams during 2023. Rob reiterated his personal thanks to Kevin for all of the support Kevin had given to the county teams over the years.

Seniors County Boyd Brackstone Boyd gave a good summary of the men's seniors teams during the past year, and he presented Jenny Watts' report on the ladies seniors (see written report attached) Competitions David Walrond presented the competitions committee report for the year – see attached written report.

Participation - Steve Davies and David Lloyd presented the Participation Committee's report on its activities during the year – see attached written report.

9. To approve amendments to the Dorset League Rules – see attached written report. The amendments were approved.

10. To elect the Executive Committee for the coming year:

Chair - Richard Henshaw

Hon Treasurer - Brian Cooley

Hon Secretary - Nick Chapman

County Safeguarding Officer - Emma Plimmer.

Other Executive Committee members: Steve Davies, Annie Mitchener, David Lloyd

Note: Our two County Coaches, our County Administrator and LTA Councillor are co-opted onto the Committee

There were no additional nominations, and the Executive committee members were elected en bloc.

11. To elect County Captains for the coming year :

- Men's Open Captain - Vacant
- Ladies Open Captain - Amelia Fortescue
- Men's Over 35s Captain – Vacant
- Ladies Over 35s Captain – Karen Adams
- Men's Seniors Captain - Boyd Brackstone
- Ladies Seniors Captain - Jenny Watts

The County Captains were elected en bloc.

12. Any other business – None.

After the meeting, a buffet and refreshments were served, and the winners of the Dorset Doubles Leagues (Winter 2022/23 and Summer 2023) were presented with their certificates.

Dorset LTA Accounts for the year ended 30th September 2023

See separate attachment

TREASURER'S REPORT, 2023

What a fantastic year it's been and on which it's my privilege to report. I said last year how the financing of county activities was about to undertake a radical change. The challenge was set by HO in the form of significant changes in the grant funding arrangements. As I reported last year, after years of ever reducing grant aid, we were awarded the sum of £65k in 2023 (see page 6 of the accounts). Not all of this was 'new money' because we lost £18k in registration fees. Nevertheless, this *was* a sizeable increase in funding. It enabled us to set, and in all likelihood achieve, ambitious plans primarily in the areas of performance, competition and participation. There were strings attached.

HO have been very prescriptive as to how this grant money should be spent. Four areas of core expenditure were identified and the grant was allocated across these headings. Rules were set concerning expenditure and we'll be expected to report in such a way that we can demonstrate that these rules have been met. One rule that will need particular attention is that our reporting period for the grant will be the 12 months to the end of December each year. Neither our expenditure analysis, nor our year end date, currently support these requirements.

Because of these anomalies, it's not possible to give accurate figures to date as to how expenditure lines up against these four headings. However, preliminary work I've undertaken suggests that we are, in fact, well placed to meet all targets, and of course, there's still another several weeks before we have to draw the line on the old year. What a change for me, as Treasurer, to be able to actually encourage spending! I should say that we've signed a 3 year Agreement with the LTA which covers these arrangements. Therefore, so long as we meet our core expenditure targets, our grant is secured at the current level also for three years.

There's two significant income items in the Accounts. I've referred to one, but the other is worthy of a mention. That is money raised via sponsorship. We've been fortunate, after years without any corporate supporters, to have attracted what we prefer to call Friends of Dorset Tennis. We currently have 13 who, collectively last year, parted with a little more than £51k (see Note 4 on page 6). Of course, the main

attraction is the lure of Wimbledon tickets. So, taking both of these together, and with a small number of sundry items, our total income last year exceeded £125k. – about twice the previous year.

On a technical matter, can I draw your attention to the Balance Sheet (page 4) and, in particular, to the Dorset Tournament Fund. The existence of this Fund is historical and has outlived its usefulness. It was primarily available to Clubs to help financially with tournament play but, like so many of the initiatives of the Executive Committee, it proved difficult to give money away and it was rarely called upon! Any request for help in the future will still be treated on its merits; it's simply that any grant will come from the General Fund. As a consequence, we've absorbed the Tournament Fund in the General Reserve Fund.(Again see page 4).

Taken together, it's possible to report a net surplus for the year of just under £7k (page 2). This follows 3 years of modest deficits. The surplus has been added to the General Reserve Fund which now stands comfortably at £122,670 primarily held in 3 separate bank accounts.

As usual, I don't intend to dwell on the detail in the Accounts on the basis, I hope, that all is clear. Please do study them at your leisure should you wish at home.

My thanks, as usual, to our auditors who once again have done a thorough examination of our accounts. My best wishes to Brian, my successor, provided of course you vote for him later in the meeting. And my special thanks to Annie whose help over the years has made my job so much easier.

And so, for the 20th, and last time, I ask if anyone has any questions.

K D Croydon

14th November, 2023

Dorset LTA Councillors Report 2023

I took over as Dorset's LTA Councillor in January of this year. My purpose is to represent Dorset's view at the Council and to report back to the Dorset Executive with relevant information from those meetings. People can also contact me if they have general questions regarding tennis, I might not know the answer, but I might be able to point you in the right direction. I will try not to repeat things in this report which will be talked about elsewhere.

The key change this year has been how County funding has been allocated – refer to accounts.

One of the key priorities of the LTA this year is to improve communications and the ability to answer questions quickly. Using the LTA Advantage and in the Roles and Venues section- you have links for: -

ROLES:-

Coaches; Volunteers; Activators; Officials; Explore all roles.

VENUES

Schools; Parks; Clubs

SUPPORT

Venue Support Toolkit; Parks Support Toolkit; Safeguarding; Further support for roles and venues; Shop
And hopefully if you are a key volunteer at a club, you can find helpful information here – the toolkits are extremely useful. You are probably aware of these already and these are being updated and often simplified where possible. Often there are step by step guides or links to examples to help you run through a process. If there is a hierarchy of roles (eg Officials), there will be a chart guiding you through those roles.

If you cannot find what you are looking for, then you can ask for advice using the SUPPORT CENTRE link at the bottom of the home page of the LTA Advantage Website. You are encouraged to write your question in the form provided and someone will get back to you with a response.

Obviously, Governance and the monitoring of the new County Cup system for juniors have been looked at.

Apart from finding out about the current state of Tennis, each Councillor is assigned a DTAG team – that is a sub-group that looks at various aspects of the LTA role in running Tennis. I am currently on the Competitions DTAG. The various DTAG streams are:-

(i) County Governance, Funding & Inclusion

Governance Framework – 4 counties successfully completed pilots. Supporting material and timetable for remaining counties produced. Dorset well advanced in this process.

Funding – County accounts for 2022 submitted.

Inclusion – Inclusion Plan template and supporting guidance being finalised, and will be shared at Council and then circulated to Counties.

(ii) Coach Engagement & Support

To date 571 females have enrolled on LTA Assistant courses therefore only 12 behind the target by end July. Assessed as on track to meet target.

Ethnicity Pilot scheme greatly assisted in identifying future delivery methodology.

Clarification guidance on deploying Level 1 Coaches and Activators in production and with LTA coach colleagues for peer testing.

(iii) Padel

Padel courts in Dorset are hopefully going to expand with possible new courts at East Dorset, Bournemouth Gardens and David Lloyd, Poole amongst others.

Padel County Cup:- The LTA want to introduce this when they feel most counties are ready.

A junior development plan including a youth pathway and programme is being built for 2024

Padel Newsletter Link:-

<https://www.lta.org.uk/4a56ac/siteassets/play/padel/file/padel-newsletter-september-2023.pdf>

(iv) Competition & officials

Dorset has Approved league status – this means every club in the league is LTA registered. New guidelines for Local league rules - [county--district-league-guidance.pdf \(lta.org.uk\)](#)

County Cup – feedback on new system collected and will be analysed. Generally positive.

Simplified route for officials to be updated in new year – Competition Organisers will be able to join the Officials Licencing scheme shortly.

(v) Venue Support & Volunteer Engagement

LTA Tennis Awards Criteria 2024

LTA Tennis Awards Nomination Form 2024

Top Tips For How To Write A Good Nomination

2023 Awards Review And Media Report

(vi) Safeguarding

Dorset expanding support on safeguarding with an extra volunteer.

Finalising of the LTA Safeguarding Plan 2024-26.

Support venues/clubs as they complete the 2023/24 LTA Registration process, including safeguarding standards.

Remind all committee members and volunteers of their safeguarding responsibilities and provide training where appropriate.

(vii) County performance

A template for a 10U Action Plan is being prepared

The individual County dashboard will be ready at the beginning of November

There will be guidance available on how to use the Dashboard and produce an Action Plan

(viii) Communication & engagement

Feedback to Comms workshop will be used to improve communications going forward and inform objectives for next year.

Support venues through registration by being up to speed with the latest salesforce reporting.

All the key communication dates for Wimbledon ticket allocations are available on the toolkit now.

On a tennis front, highlights in the year include GB getting to the finals in Malaga later this month, the Billie Jean Cup and the progress of GB tennis players up the world rankings including the following winners or runners-up at Wimbledon:- Neal Skupski (Men's doubles), Mark Ceban (14U boys), Alfie Hewitt and Gordon Reid (Gentleman Wheelchair Doubles), Alfie Hewitt (R/U Wheelchair Singles), Hannah Klugman and Isabelle Lacy (R/U Girls Doubles).

Tennis seems to be in good health in this country, with record numbers participating on a regular basis, Park sites making it more accessible for more players to use and the encouragement of tennis in the school curriculum providing a base for new players to emerge.

I look forward to 2024

David Walrond

November 2023

Dorset Tennis Competitions Report 2023

2023 has been a busy year, with competitions returning to complete normality. It has been a pleasure being on the Committee this year as our team are fully focused on their own key areas and it has been good to see all our commitments so efficiently and successfully carried out. An absolute massive thanks to everyone who has volunteered, your contributions have been really appreciated.

Dorset Leagues:- The transition from Sally to Annie and Steve has been completed and I am so impressed with the work they are doing. I think the teams from around the county echo that and hopefully have enjoyed playing in the leagues. Some slight changes to the rules will be looked at tonight, this year mainly to simplify the process. Please always keep to deadlines and communicate with your opposing teams. A reminder that the home team must provide refreshments after the match unless contacted otherwise. Due to the set up of league, the home team gets to select the day on which the

matches should be played based on the availability at their club, but should always give a selection of dates from which to pick.

National Leagues:- Moe has had his first season in charge and we are very pleased to be able to offer this again. I would like to encourage all clubs to take part, especially at Junor level. The Juniors really enjoy these team events, and as long as the fun element is encouraged, win or lose their enthusiasm will rocket.

Play Your Way to Wimbledon:- Dorset held county 14U Singles and Regional 18U Doubles Finals. Aidan, Daniella (both 14U singles) and Alexander with Thomas in the 18U doubles went on to represent Dorset in the Wimbledon National finals. Overall, despite our success, I would like to see more club/park/school events feeding into these finals. We will be hosting the Regional 18U Doubles again in 2024. Adults 18 and over, we would love to see you enter this – there were no entries in 2023. To get to the Finals, there must be a minimum number who enter -see 2024 rule when they are published. Thank you to Sally for helping run these events.

Dorset Championships:- Although not without its problems, I think all the players would agree that it was a successful and enjoyable event. This could not have happened without the hard work behind the scenes – many thanks to Diane and Donna for organising the draws, Kieran and Diane for being the Assistant Referee, Debbie for organising the supervisors and Annie S. for doing everything else -from organising balls, prizes, water bottles, organising the presentation to helping at the control desk. Not forgetting a huge thanks to all the volunteers who gave up their time to help supervise the courts. Many thanks to West Hants and Victoria Avenue for allowing us to use their courts to hold the Championships. Thanks also to John Feaver and Toby Samuel (Wimbledon - qualifiers and men's doubles) who made the presentations on the finals – it was a very fitting way to end the Championships.

Other Tournaments:- Grade 3 tournaments took place at Victoria Avenue, East Dorset and West Hants (100th Bournemouth Open – well done to Kieran who stepped in at the last minute to act as referee under difficult circumstances and did himself proud in the way he overcame these to run a successful event). Southbourne decided not to run their tournament this year.

We had a lot of Grade 4 and 5 tournaments run at weekend during the year throughout the county. Not so many Grade 3 weekend events. We would like to see some Grade 3 events run during the winter months, but that would mean clubs giving up 4 indoor courts for the whole weekend.

Junior Committee:- In line with the LTA trying to involve young people in the decision making process in Tennis, a Junior Committee has been set up. Under the chair of Jack, they have looked at County Cup kit, prizes at the County Championships, feedback on what goes well, what could be improved and what changes they would like to see in tournaments and county training. They may not always feel they are contributing to the decisions, but they have caused a lot of discussion in the other committees with their ideas, making them reflect on what they are doing. It has been a very positive experience and is going from strength to strength.

Targets for 2024:- We have been given a set of statistics from the LTA about the state of Dorset tennis. It was extremely well presented by Sam Lewis, LTA Competition Development Partner, and highlighted our many strengths as well as areas we need to improve. We have agreed an action plan with Sam moving forward into 2024 and are targets are:-

1. (i) Incentivise a comp organiser (using results manager) in all clubs (and possibly TTP training) so that coaching comps Grade 7s (and any 6s) are recorded .
(ii) Create 'matchplay clusters' across the county with venues that want to develop players through competition.

We are bottom of the county in recording these types of tournaments, they are often run informally at the end of terms in coaching, but none are recorded. This is our top priority this year.

2. Look to support the nomination of another Grade 3 in a different part of the county – we are in advanced talks with Sherborne for them to run a summer Grade 3 in 2024.
3. Explore venues across the county that could run WRT (Winter Regional Tour) and engage with the central competitions team about offering WRT in Dorset

Again, we are bottom in the country for running such events, they are two day events which are run indoors at a weekend (4 courts) – we do not currently run any. This is due to the lack of venues which are able to support hosting such events.

4. Officials :-

- (i) to create mentoring opportunities for officials wishing to progress with their refereeing
- (ii) To publish the funding opportunities we are able to provide for people to train to become officials (Competition Organisers, Referees, etc).

We are actually not too badly off for qualified referees compared to other counties, but we wish to encourage more so we can offer more competition opportunities at different levels of play.

I hope that agree that we are a very proactive Committee in wanting to drive competition to new levels. While I remember, don't forget to go on to the Dorset Tennis website to make your nominations for our Awards in 2024. You will hear more about the 2023 Awards tonight.

In terms of personel of the Committee, our Chair, Diane Shields, decided to step down in October and we all thank her for her commitment, dedication, professionalism and enthusiasm in moving competition forward in the years she has been on the Committee. I have stepped in as interim Chair and have presented this report accordingly. I am pleased to say that Steve Davies has agreed to take on the role of Chair – he brings with him a wealth of experience from playing at a very good level, organising club tournaments, acting as a referee and now organising the Dorset Leagues with Annie M. We all look forward to working with him as he continues to move competition forward in Dorset.

I end by again thanking all the volunteers who have given up their time to help make competition so successful in Dorset.

**David Walrond - Acting Chair
Competitions Committee
November 2024**

Participation Committee AGM report 14/11/23 Review of the Committee

The Dorset Tennis grants and loans scheme has been operating for many years now. However, last year the Participation Committee was formed to try and focus grants towards specific projects to encourage more people on the courts.

Each year the Executive Committee allocates a sum normally around £15,000 to the Committee. There is also a separate fund for Tournaments, The Michael Evans Fund for Girls Tennis and towards Disability/Open Court Tennis.

The County publish the criteria on the website and at the AGM Clubs are encouraged to think about projects that could be funded.

At the last AGM the Committee set out the policy for the following year and indicated that: -

- It is still important that the grants we give support the main aims of the county and, using the old LTA mantra, to help more tennis players play tennis more often.
- We need to ensure fairness and to make sure that we use the funds wisely.
- As part of the review, we are looking to not focus on infrastructure projects.
- Whilst not rejecting these proposals we consider that more focus should be on helping to grow and sustain tennis membership so that new members can then help fund these projects in the future.
- To be more proactive we will be contacting clubs, secretaries and coaches on a regular basis to find out how things are going and to try and work collaboratively to help. Sharing ideas for other clubs would be a good idea.
- We will try and come up with a plan to make sure that clubs know about the help available and suggest ways of growing tennis.

2022-2023

The Participation Committee Grants summary is set out below.

As can be seen we agreed grants for over £18,000. However, some of these are still in the pipeline awaiting fruition. We have given out just under £4000 so far but by the end of the year this will increase significantly. The headline support has been for :

- Open Days
- Coaching grants
- Supporting a coaches network
- Supporting Lucy Shuker

Dorset LTA Grants 2022-2023 - Summary

Project	Amount requested	Amount agreed	Amount paid
Performance			
Sub total	2200.0	2200	2000
Infrastructure/programmes			
Sub Total	25450.0	6315	165
Coaching Bursaries			
Sub Total	4859.0	4834	1102
Other incl free tennis			
Sub Total	400.0	1533.2	233.2
Open Days			
Sub Total	800.0	800	300
Coaching Rep			
Sub Total	2600.0	2600	105
Totals	36109.0	18282.2	3905.2

**David Lloyd - Chair
Participation Committee**

Senior Ladies Report for Dorset AGM 2023

Dorset entered only 3 teams in the intercounty tournament this year.

The over 50s found themselves elevated to DIVISION 1 which meant they had to play singles for which they had no volunteers so we did not enter that age category.

Three age groups did play and were equally successful.

Cleo Reid captained the over 40s team in Group 3 and despite having one match cancelled finished 4th. Nina Crane passed the Captain's role of the over 65s to Helen Crawford. They played in Division 1 and after some tight matches finished third as did the over 70s team who were also in Division 1.

Perhaps the outstanding achievement this year has been the regular senior tennis practices instigated by Jenny Watts and organised by Annie Mitchener. Once a month players from all over the county are invited to join in the 2 hour practice on the indoor courts at David Lloyd Cabot lane. Many ladies have played and pleasingly have come from many different clubs.

We are intending to continue this practice as it allows anyone who is interested in playing county tennis to put themselves forward in a very friendly sort of trial.

Jenny Watts

Men's County Seniors Organiser's Report for 2023

Dorset Men's Seniors teams competed in the 50s, 65s, 70s and 80s age groups this year.

Despite more regionalisation of the leagues this year teams still had much travelling to do and our captains did well to form cohesive squads who made themselves available throughout a long season.

The 50s, captained by Giles Cooper were unbeaten and should gain promotion to Division 2. The 65s, captained by Steve Davies finished mid table and will remain in Division 1. The 70s competed in Division 1, winning all their matches and going forward to the National Finals where they unfortunately lost three close rubbers to a strong Kent team.

The 80s age group was a new addition to the format and it showed that tennis at that age is still thriving. The team captained with great enthusiasm by Stuart Turvey played all 5 of their matches, winning 2 and losing 3, but all very well contested. We look forward to this spirit continuing next season. The 75s should be back too under the capable leadership of David Lloyd who has been recovering from injury.

There are now signs of greater participation by clubs across Dorset and it is hoped that a regular indoor practice can be organised for players who are already of County standard or who have ambitions of becoming county players in the future. David Lloyd has contributed greatly to this initiative and I hope you will see more news on this over the coming weeks. This increased participation from players across Dorset should mean more teams will be able to compete in the Seniors County Cup next year.

Captains for the 2024 season will be confirmed or chosen over the next few weeks and I am sure we will all have much to look forward to.

Boyd Brackstone

DORSET DOUBLES LEAGUE – RULE CHANGES

Rule 4: Winter Entry deadline date

Earlier entry deadline for the Winter league of 16th July rather than 31st July.

Rule 5: Changes to the penalties for a team that concedes matches

5. Clubs MUST enter all their fixture dates online before the start of the Summer and Winter seasons, which commence on the 1st April and 1st October respectively. No date for a League Fixture may be amended after the 1st May for Summer Leagues and 1st November for Winter Leagues, except due to bad weather or extenuating circumstances as set out in the Guidance Notes on Walkovers (see Appendix). These periods of grace are really for genuine errors in scheduling and should not be used to accommodate last minute player absences.

If a match is postponed by a Team Captain, then any rearrangement must be made between the respective Fixtures Secretaries and the agreed date together with the reasons for the postponement notified to the appropriate Results Secretary by email. Once the new date is shown online, if a Club needs to challenge this date, then they should email the Results Secretary as soon as possible and in all cases within seven days of the new date being posted.

Any team that concedes 2 or more matches will be automatically relegated one division. Any match which is conceded, will result in 4 rubbers and 8 sets and 48 games being awarded to the team, which has received the walkover. Any team conceding a match will be ineligible for promotion. In the event of teams ending up with the same number of points in the league, a team which has conceded (more) matches will become the bottom team of those with the same number of points. Please see Guidance Notes on Walkovers in the Appendix.

replaces:

5. Clubs must enter all their fixture dates online before the start of the Summer and Winter seasons which commence on the 1st April and 1st October respectively. **Home teams must offer the away team a choice of 3 dates, which suit your club's court and player availability.** No date for a League Fixture may be amended after the 1st May for Summer Leagues and 1st November for Winter Leagues, except due to bad weather or extenuating circumstances as set out in the Guidance Notes on Walkovers (see Appendix). These periods of grace are really for genuine errors in scheduling and should not be used to accommodate last minute player absences.

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Any team that concedes 2 or more matches will be automatically relegated one division. After 2 walkovers, all matches are null and void for that team. Any match, which is conceded will result in 4 rubbers and 8 sets but no and 48 games being awarded to the team that has received the walkover **and 6 match points being deducted from the team giving the walkover.** Any team conceding a match will be ineligible for promotion. In the event of teams ending up with the same number of points in the league a team that has conceded (more) matches will become the bottom team of those with the same number of points. Please see Guidance Notes on Walkovers in the Appendix.

Rule 12: BTM membership is encouraged but is not mandatory

replaces:

12. All players should be LTA Advantage members and have an active BTM number, which **has to be included in the team registration on League Planner. No results will be accepted for an unregistered player and will be treated as an ineligible player. This is now a condition to be able to be an LTA Registered League.**

All players should be linked to the club which they are representing before the beginning of each season.

Rule 15: Match results entered online

15. Match results shall be entered online by the home Team Captain within 72 hours of the match being completed. If the result needs to be challenged by the away Team Captain, he/she should email the Results Secretary within 7 days of the result being entered online or confirm the result online. **Please do not confirm results online if there are unknown players on the result sheet.**

replaces:

15. Match results shall be entered online by the home Team Captain within 72 hours of the match being completed. If the result needs to be challenged by the away Team Captain, he/she should email the appropriate Results Secretary within 7 days of the result being entered online or confirm the result online.

Confirmation of the result should be completed by the away team but not before all names and British Tennis Membership (BTM) numbers have been entered.