

AGM Minutes

Officers

Keith Burgess(Chair), Darran Fenton(Treasurer and Secretary), Rob Hayes(Fixtures Secretary)

Delegates

Alan JONES, Jack STANWORTH, Ricky FENTON, Lee CORNOCK, Walter HACKNEY, Dave WATSON, Frank THOMAS, Kevin BROWN, Tom CROSS, Macauley COLE, Andy HUGHES, Ben GRIFFITHS, Darran JONES, Rob HAYES, Lucian GOBLE.

Apologies

None

Minutes from Previous AGM

Minutes From previous AGM read out by DF. Proposed by Frank THOMAS and Seconded by Alan JONES.

Election of Officers.

Current Committee positions discussed with no opposition to the three current members remaining in post for the 2015/2016 season.

Extra Responsibility Allowances.

DF asked if there were any objections to the amounts of Extra Responsibility Allowances continuing, which is currently £60 per annum for each of the three elected officials. There were no objections.

Finances

Darran Fenton provided an income and expenditure report for the previous season and told the meeting that the finances were in good shape.

Frank THOMAS addressed the meeting with a proposal to increase the team entry fee by £ to £50 with a further proposal to increase the competition entry fees from £3 to £5 per person. Both proposals were voted on and agreed.

Sponsorship.

Darran FENTON thanked Ben GRIFFITHS and Vince HAINES (in his absence) for their financial support over past seasons.

Ben GRIFFITHS told the committee that he was not able to commit to any further sponsorship at that time but would advise the committee in due course if he would continue.

(Vince HAINES later joined the meeting. He told the committee that he would continue to support the league and would discuss the matter with committee members outside of the AGM.)

Handicaps

Darran FENTON informed the meeting that the committee had met previously to discuss the handicaps for the coming season. Rob HAYES then provided the meeting with the new handicaps and detailed how the committee had reached its decision. In the first instance, as was the same for last season, the top 20 players in the rankings table were scrutinised and adjustments made to some of the handicaps. These initial adjustments were made in increments of 7.

Outside of this there were a few players, especially those who had recently joined the league, who were not inside the top 20 but were clearly better than their given handicap. Adjustments made to these players were also made in increments of 7.

The handicaps of those outside the top 20 were then looked at and some adjustments were made in increments of 7 to players deemed to require higher handicaps.

Finally they looked at the league positions. Rob HAYES stated that there seemed to be 3 divisions in the league this year with four teams at the bottom not obtaining over 63 points. It had been decided that players in the bottom four teams of the final league positions would be given an additional 4 to their handicaps for the first part of the season. This would then be reviewed at the end of the first round of matches and adjustments made where necessary. The 4 would not be given to all players however – If players had already been adjusted, whether up or down, then they would be excluded from this early season boost.

Darran Fenton explained that the Committee had made their decision about the handicaps and that their decision would stand – Committee members are voted in to make such decisions and that they must be trusted to do so.

Tom CROSS raised a point that in last years AGM a ruling was passed that handicaps were to be no more than 42, and questioned why some players had been awarded 49 in the alterations half way through the season.

Darran Fenton accepted that the ruling was made as stated by Tom CROSS. He then explained that the committee had made a change to increase handicaps to 49 in a monthly meeting at Christmas due to some players clearly requiring additions to their handicaps to address an imbalance. Darran Fenton also asked for caution in forcing the committee to adhere to a limit on handicaps and although he expressed little desire to go above the current 49, was not willing to give any reassurance that as a committee member he would not consider this at a future date.

Although the committee did not offer the new handicaps as a proposal, Alan JONES proposed the New Handicaps be introduced and this was seconded by Kevin BROWN.

Tom CROSS then proposed that handicaps should not go above 42 and this was voted against.

A new proposal by (???) was then put to the meeting that handicaps should not go above 49 – This was then agreed upon.

Darran Fenton gave his concerns about tying the hands of the committee with this ruling adding that it would mean the Committee would be unable to address any further imbalances for the benefit of the league.

Tom CROSS raised an issue about new players joining the league and their starting handicaps. This was discussed and reference made to certain individuals whose handicaps were felt to be ridiculously high for their ability.

Darran Fenton explained that with good will and intention where new players were not known to committee members or even other league members, the team captains were entrusted in making a fair assessment of the player and suggesting a handicap befitting of this assessment. However this had seemingly gone awry with regard to a number of new players.

Tom CROSS proposed that new players who were not known in the league should not be given a high handicap and proposed a starting handicap of 21.

This was voted on but was not accepted.

After discussion Tom CROSS amended his proposal to 28 and this was accepted.

LLEWELLYN JENKINS MEMORIAL .

Format

Discussions about the format took place. A suggestion was made to have the games played by aggregate score, with the winning team having the highest score of all the matches played.

This was then proposed by Frank Thomas and agreed.

Darran JONES proposed that the draw should be one in which each captain writes down their players in the order they wish to play and both sets of names are then matched to form the order of play.

This was agreed upon.

After further discussions a proposal by Darran FENTON was then made that the matches should be in the format of a doubles match, then a singles match followed by a further doubles match. This was agreed upon.

NAME CHANGE.

Darran Fenton proposed a change to the name of the Llewellyn Jenkins Memorial Trophy, proposing that it be named the "Bill GOURLAY" Memorial trophy in memory of the Caerphilly player who was a long standing member of the league over the years and whom passed away over two years ago.

After discussions with the meeting and a suggestion by Darran JONES, it was proposed that it be named so for the 5 years and that in future the naming of competitions after past players is for no more than 5 years.

Ben Griffiths suggested keeping the name of the Llewellyn Jenkins Memorial Trophy for the knockout competition and proposed that Bill GOURLAY'S name be put to the Open Singles Competition. The matters were voted on and agreed.

MISS RULE

Darran JONES made a proposal to introduce the miss rule. This was discussed and concerns were raised about the levels of refereeing in the league and about individuals' competence and confidence to call a miss against a player. This was voted in for the coming season.

Various issues were mentioned Tom CROSS proposed that it should be left to the committee as to what aspects of the miss rule they could feasibly introduce and would publish guidance to teams prior to the start of the new season.

This was then voted upon and agreed.

Allocation of Prize Money.

PRIZE FOR most 30+ PLUS BREAKS.

Ben GRIFFITHS asked the committee what had happened to the prize money for the player with the most 30+ breaks. The matter was discussed and Darran Fenton told the meeting that there was no such prize money – The matter may have been discussed at a previous AGM but there was no ruling made to introduce such a prize - which was reflected in the minutes already read out, proposed and agreed upon earlier in the AGM.

Late Results.

Rob HAYES informed the meeting that despite a number of reminders about the need to pass results to him in a timely fashion, there were still a number of teams, namely County B, Docks and Park B who were consistently poor at providing results. In managing the expectations of other teams for timely updates to the website he proposed that results should reach him no later than Wednesday lunchtime (1200 hours) and the committee would look at penalising any teams who were consistently late providing results.

This proposal was voted on and agreed.

Length of League

Rob HAYES told the meeting that he had received feedback from a number of players across the teams that they felt the league was too long. Rob HAYES then proposed that the league be shortened to just one home and one away game for each team and proposed that a shortened Christmas competition be introduced.

His proposals were discussed by the meeting, voted on but were not agreed.

A counter proposal was made by Andrew HUGHES to lengthen the league so that each team played each other twice at home and twice away. The merits or otherwise were discussed and voted on but not agreed.

Discussions continued on the subject of the length of the league and Frank THOMAS proposed that it should remain the same as last season i.e. that there be three games, each team playing each other

three times albeit the teams who play the first games of the league at home, will play the third game at home also. This was voted in.

Ben Griffiths proposed that the league draw should be switched so that whichever teams played at home twice last season will only play at home this season. Rob HAYES added that this could be done easily enough within the current draw but warned against tinkering with it too much due to the complicated fixture process which had to take into consideration not only that County Cons fielded 4 teams and only had 2 tables, but also that Roath were in a similar predicament with 2 teams playing on one table throughout the season.

Eventually agreement was reached and passed by way of vote.

4 Player Ruling dispensed with.

Rob HAYES proposed that the four player ruling be dispensed with. The discussions on this were very short as the vast majority present felt that it was not relevant and the proposal was passed by vote.

Discussions then took place about teams turning up with only four players or less.

Darran Fenton reiterated the Committees stance that from the outset the league was always intended to be a 5 game affair with individual players competing in matches. When teams signed up to take part in the league matches it was on the understanding that they would be able to provide 5 players to play each Monday. If a team was unable to field 5 players then it was the captain's undertaking to provide as many players as he had available to him to take part in the match, even if this meant only one player attending.

Rob Hayes reiterated that a past ruling had been made whereby a match would only be postponed and replayed at the committees discretion under two scenarios ; Where team members had to attend an AGM (Needs Clarification from ROB?) or there had been a bereavement.

Rob HAYES told the meeting that where captains were struggling to meet this commitment then one of the Committee members should be contacted in the first instance and not the opposing team as had been done on previous occasions.

Toward the end of the meeting Macauley COLE proposed a prize be awarded for the player who has the most 30+ breaks in the league. A vote took place but this was not agreed upon.

During the meeting discussions took place about funding the league. Frank THOMAS furnished the meeting with his past experience of being the treasurer and obtaining sponsorship for the league.

There were a number of suggestions about ways to raise money, but when it came to the crunch there was reluctance from those present to take on this role.

Darran Fenton told the meeting that he had approached a number of local businesses about sponsorship but got the same answer, that they were unable to assist and had designated charities that they funded. He also proposed that a "Funding Post" be made available on the committee, with an additional Responsibility Payment in line with the other Committee Members, ie £60 per annum. The role would be solely fund raising for the league and it's associated competitions.

This proposal was voted on and accepted.

The post was then put to the meeting for a volunteer to take up, however there were no takers.

Darran Fenton told the meeting that he would contact all the teams in due course and advertise the post and place an advert on the website.

There were discussions about the number of teams in the league and Vince HAINES and Darran JONES asked whether the Committee had made representations with any other Conservative Clubs with a view of them entering a team.

Darran Fenton told the meeting that he had done so around four years ago, when the team number had dwindled to 8 and as a result three new teams, Roath A, B and Park B had joined.

He added that he would make contact again to see if there were any other interested teams.

In final comments, Ben GRIFFITHS expressed concern about the committees decision and process on deciding the handicaps and Dave WATSON expressed his dismay that one particular individuals handicap had not been reduced enough.

