

FULFORD LADIES' INVITATION TENNIS LEAGUE

RAY CHAPMAN MOTORS

Treating people the way we expect to be treated

Minutes of Annual General Meeting 10th March 2025

Fulfordgate Working Men's Club 7.30pm

1. **Present:** Appleton Roebuck, Bishopthorpe, Boston Spa, Bubwith, Cliffe, Copmanthorpe, David Lloyd, Dunnington, Fulford, Heworth, Knaresborough, New Earswick, Pocklington, Poppleton, Riccall, Rowntree Park, Rufforth, Stamford Bridge, Starbeck, Sutton-upon-Derwent, Wetherby, Wigginton, Wilberfoss, Wistow, York

Apologies: Starbeck, Tollerton

Not in attendance:

2. The minutes of the AGM held in 2024 were agreed.

3. (a) **Chairs report** – Laura Rhodes. LR started the meeting by speaking of Carol Rees from Knaresborough Club, who passed away last September. Her dedication to her club and the league never went unnoticed and LR had fond memories of her smiling face at the AGM and presentation evenings. She was an extremely supportive member of the whole tennis community and will be missed. LR thanked everyone for attending, commenting on an excellent turn out. Reflecting on last season, LR noted that the majority of matches had been played in accordance with the fixture list and thanked captains for fielding teams, being flexible with weather disruption and rearrangements, ensuring the season went as smoothly as possible. LR did ask that matches were not cancelled too soon on account of weather/weather forecasts, to avoid rearranging. LR commented that the tournaments, whilst being well attended and enjoyed by lots of players, were either falling to the same clubs to organise or finding clubs to host them was becoming more difficult, and urged other clubs to consider if this was something they could offer to host. LR reminded everyone that issues with behaviour and conduct on court should be resolved quickly and to uphold a spirit of forgiveness should such issues arise. We all have bad days sometimes.

(b) **Treasurers report** – Nicola Graham. NG informed the meeting that fees would remain at £8.00 per team and she was collecting this at the meeting or had bank details for those wishing to transfer directly. The bank balance is healthy with approximately £900 surfeit. Expenses remain the same, website fees, email account, trophy engraving, room hire etc.

(c) **Results Secretary** – Ellie Wilkinson. EW reported that the majority of scorecards were submitted promptly last season. She did ask that if the regular team captain is away, could whoever is deputising send the score card in as soon as possible. Anyone can submit the score card. EW asked that any changes to times/days or special dates to be aware of could be with her by Friday 14th March at the latest. EW will endeavour to have the fixtures published by the end of play on Sunday 16th March.

Please contact EW using ladiesresults@yorktennisleague.co.uk

All nominated players details must be with EW no later than 1 week prior to the start of the season. If EW has not received these, the rule of the first 3 players on the first completed scorecard will be applied.

- (d) **Secretary report** – Claire Fuller. CF thanked all the clubs who have submitted the google form with updates and confirmations of team contacts. Doing it this way cuts out errors and time spent. Any further changes to contacts should be with CF by Thursday 13th March, and they will be circulated by the end of Sunday 16th March, earlier if possible. CF asked that next year; captains just fill in one form per team as this would make the process even smoother. CF advised the meeting that the league would be phasing out the current email and moving towards using a gmail account. The reasons for this are to reduce expenditure and eradicate all the spam and advertising that currently needs filtering with the Webmail account. A timeframe for this transition will be emailed round once known. CF reminded the meeting that to contact her, please use info@yorktennisleague.co.uk and she will continue to monitor the inbox on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, if anything urgent please call. CF gave a general thank you to all captains for their support with communications and administration.

4.

Election of Officers:

Officer	Candidate	Proposed	Seconded
Chair	Laura Rhodes	David Lloyd	Heworth
Treasurer	Nicola Graham	Copmanthorpe	Fulford
Results Secretary	Ellie Wilkinson	Appleton Roebuck	Bishophorpe
Secretary	Claire Fuller	Sutton upon Derwent	New Earswick

All candidates were voted in unanimously

5. Tournaments

Appleton Roebuck offered to host the IT TOO, Rowntree Park offered to host the BERYL BEAN. The league needs a club to come forward and offer to host the IT tournament. Thank you to those clubs for agreeing to run these tournaments.

6. Fees

Fees for the coming season were agreed as £8.00 per team entering the league. Payable ahead of the season starting.

7. Proposed amendments to rules

In accordance with the rules, the scheduled start to this season would coincide with Easter weekend. The committee asked for a discussion regarding this, not as a permanent amendment to the rules, but for this year alone. The majority of clubs present preferred to defer the start of the season by 1 week, to Saturday 26th April. The season would conclude by Sunday 3rd August, allowing time for rearrangements. This was therefore agreed as the way to proceed.

York had requested a discussion take place regarding elongating the season to September and not playing matches on the May Day Bank Holiday (the league does not schedule matches for the end of May Bank holiday). Points raised at the meeting: farming communities would find this difficult to manage, players with young families would find this difficult during the school summer break,

captains feel the season is long enough as it is, hard work each week getting teams together, court time for some clubs would be an issue as men's matches are scheduled into September, along with the tournaments the ladies league hold to round off the season. York was invited to submit a formal proposal for next years AGM if they wished to do so.

8. Applications for membership

Pocklington 2

Poppleton 4

Harrogate Racquets Club

No objections were raised to Pocklington 2 and Poppleton 4 being entered into Division 7, **carried**.

Harrogate Racquets Club are outside the radius of 12 miles from the centre of York, a discussion and vote followed with 3 clubs for them joining the league and 22 against them joining. **Not carried**.

Knaresborough and Wilberfoss have withdrawn teams from the league this season.

9. Formation of divisions

Following the vote, the format for the league shall be Divisions 1-4 = 8 teams, Divisions 5-7 = 7 teams. One team will be promoted unexpectedly, LR will contact said team to let them know.

10. Sponsorship

The league is very happy to have Ray Chapman Motors as their sponsor. Thank you to Helen Gray at Heworth for putting us in touch and helping to make this happen, the league is very appreciative to her and Ray Chapman Motors.

11. Pink Weekend

This shall be held over the weekend 5th/6th July. LR would like to incorporate something to the memory of Carol Rees into this fundraising event.

12. AOB

2027 marks a special anniversary year for the league. LR asked that people have this in mind and think about ways we could celebrate and mark this special occasion.

David Lloyd asked that refreshments be offered as the norm rather than the exception, at the end of matches. It was felt that this social element of the season was important and was being missed. Most teams arrange this between opposing captains and their team as the season goes along, everyone was encouraged to adopt this approach and offer refreshments where possible. The league recognises that timings of some matches do not always make this viable, but even light refreshments would be nice to offer.

The order of play when only 2 courts are available will be reinstated onto the score card this season for guidance.