Minutes of Leamington & District AGM held on Tuesday June 27th

at Leamington Oak House.

Present – Peter Drury, Peter Stiff (Stratford); John Green, Nigel Byrne (Solihull); Abbie Stevens (Daventry); Jason Madden , Tom Darling, Rob Gill (Leamington); Mark Page , Mike Johnson, Ben Graff (Chair) (Kenilworth); Gordon Christie, Roger Ball (Shirley); Steve Rumbsy (Banbury); Malcolm Harding, Chris Pegler (Rugby);

Ben introduced the meeting , thanking everyone for coming. Apologies had been received from Rob and Richard Reynolds, Gilbert Cescs and Dave Shurrock.

Ben congratulated Olton on winning Div 1 and Kenilworth for winning the KO Cup. And Paddy Reid for winning the Open individual competition. He also thanked Jason for his efforts, namely organising the individual competition, trophy management and the Jamboree.

Gordon Christie was stepping down as ECF delegate and Gilbert Csecs as treasurer.

Ben then reiterated the key points around child and vulnerable adult protection. Gordon commented that the BDCL has appointed its own safety officer.

The Leamington rapidplay was being resurrected and Ed Goodwin was setting it up. He could do with more help , particularly on the day. It would be on Sunday Sep 10 at the SYNDI centre in Leamington.

The lightning had gone well and once again Solihull were thanked for staging the event. The Jamboree was well supported but mainly by two clubs – Leamington and Banbury. The new eligibility rules had worked well. It was expected that all the players in a team would all have higher grades than the team below it but some pointed out that travelling issues might preclude this; and sometimes there does need to be some flexibility within teams. Gordon thought we need to adhere to the 10 point rule (regarding swopping players within a team) even though it isn’t documented in the rules.

Ben also mentioned that team defaults were affecting key league positions and therefore teams should not be doing it. However, there were some difficulties in rearranging which caused the postponed match to be delayed.

The treasure (Tom Darling) said that Gilbert Csecs had done the accounts and we would comment on them by email.

We had had to pay some game fee monies which were due from the 2015-16 season.

In his grading report Mike commented that the closing date for submissions was being brought forward, by 7 days. He also said that

there were still players who were not members of the ECF. There was much debate on how to resolve the issue of new members who might not play many games, nor wish to become members immediately.. John Green said that he charged them £2.50.

The competitions secretary (Jason) said that in this 6th year of his stewardship we had 68 entries – slightly down on previous years. He had continued with the approach of giving non-drivers a home draw in the first round.

The U100 had been won by John Hall and U125 by Steve Rumsby after years of trying. Peter Drury had won the U150 and the Open by Patrick Reid beating Carl Portman and Tom Darling on the way.

Ben had won the rapidplay best of 3 final for the 3rd year out of 4.

The jamboree was won by Andy Collins and Jason but the event seemed to be supported mainly by Leamington and Banbury. As yet there was no scheduled date for this year.

Alan Lloyd had won the Lightning with 9 out of 9.

Steve Rumsby updated the meeting on the final positions of the leagues. Olton A had won div 1 and Olton B div 2 both by one board point difference ahead of Kenilworth. But divs 3 and 4 had been won by clear margins (Banbury C and Rugby respectively).

All 3 KO cups were won by using bottom board elimination. The best game prize was won by Mark Page having been judged by Richard Weaving. Steve had thought it best to use a judge who was not a regular league player.

There were many contenders for the Stanley Gibbins trophy (best overall performance) including Joshua Crofts, Nigel Byrne and 3 (Mark Page, Dave Shurrock and Phil Wood all from Kenilworth) but the winner was Arran Grundy with 11 out of 11.

Jason reported that trophies had been returned in a clean condition.

The presentation of the trophies took place.

League formation for 2017-18.

Banbury and Rugby were adding a team but Leamington were dropping one. Steve went through the makeup of divisions including entries for the KO cups. Thus the league would have a 8,9,7,8 make-up. It was felt that Rugby (the new team) were too strong to put into div 3 and so were placed in div 2 which had been light on number of teams in recent seasons. Steve also asked those clubs that play in other leagues to let him know of fixture dates that they couldn’t make.

Rule Changes

John Green was invited to explain the back ground – namely the late scheduling of matches between teams in the same club. There was much debate about when the two matches should be played by. Some felt they should be played in the first half of the season and even in the first two matches. Some felt that Jan 31 was too early for the second match. The penalty would not only be zero match points for both teams but also a 4 game point penalty. With 3 teams from the same club it would be even a bigger problem.

Mark Page thought the situation with Sol A and Sol B had tarnished the league and couldn’t understand why Banbury (who were relegated from div 1 as a result) were not hopping up and down.

He also commented that there is a 56 day rule to reschedule the match. In a similar situation in 2013 Olton A and Olton B had played late which caused Kenilworth some consternation.

Eventually the rule was passed with one against. However, it did pose Steve a problem with scheduling such fixtures by Jan 31 and he would do his best.

Election of Officers

Chairman – Ben Graff

Secretary – Mike Johnson

Treasurer – Tom Darling

ECF Representative – vacant

Grading Officer – Mike Johnson

Congress Director – Ed Goodwin

Competitions Secretary

Jamboree – Ben Graff

Lightning – Rob and Richard Reynolds

Fixture Secretary and Webmaster – Steve Rumsby

Trophies Officer – vacant

Ben pointed out that there was no representative from a Birmingham club on the committee but it was noted that the two Reynold brothers were committee members.

Tom reported that fees would remain as last season

AOB

Mike commented on the anomaly regarding players playing up two teams in so far that it should count towards the totting up process. It was agreed that we should add the word ‘next’ in the appropriate rule that playing on board 4 doesn’t count towards the totting-up but ONLY in the ‘next’ higher team.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm