

Aldershot & District Lawn Tennis Association

Affiliated to Hants & Isle Of Wight LTA

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 5th November 2025, at AVONDALE LAWN TENNIS CLUB

The Chairman, Darren Sharp, opened the meeting.

Present: 34 people attended, representing 14 clubs.

1. Apologies

West Surrey Tennis Club and Julie Wright (Alton).

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 6th November 2025, were accepted.

3. Matters Arising

None.

4. Chairman's Report

In his first report as chairman Darren said its content was prompted by recent discussions. People turn out and help us to help you have a good time playing tennis but unfortunately, we have had too many discussions about behaviour. The LTA states that there is no place for intimidation or bullying on court and we all know that. Sometimes players can become too forceful and get carried away in the moment. We want players to have good competitive matches and enjoy their game. Clubs have a duty of care to their members which is often focused on junior players but applies equally to all members. Home clubs have a duty to protect their members and visitors, this means taking action so all can enjoy their tennis. It is the same for Pickleball, players want a competitive but enjoyable time.

5. Treasurer's Report

Andrew reported that there are no accounts this year, it has not been possible due to the way in which our Stripe account had been set up, he does not have access to it. The bank accounts are fine, around £7000 and stable. There should be fees for the summer and winter from the LTA, but these have not been received yet, again more unknown figures.

The old system was used for last winter. Darren and Andrew are looking to set up a new Stripe account, if they can't do this then we will have to go back to the old system. Peter Lambert (Farnborough) stated that they had had to email Stipe several times but that you can have 2 people on an account. A Worplesdon member confirmed that they had had a similar issue with Stripe, responses from which can be slow but they did eventually get it working as they needed.

Paul Mortlock disagreed with Andrew in that figures were available and that draft accounts could have been produced. Alison confirmed that an overall figure of income was known.

6. Election of the committee

Several members of the committee are standing down, Brian Greig, Darrell Merrick-Wilson and Sam Williamson. We have been lucky enough to have volunteers to replace Brian and Darrell.

Keith Morris	President
Darren Sharp	Chairman
Andrew Littlecott	Treasurer
Alison Fortune	Secretary
Carole Lee	Ladies League Secretary
Sally Young	Mens League Secretary
Cath Pearson	Mixed League Secretary
Paul Mortlock	Junior League Secretary
Laura Williams	Online lead Pennants

The remaining committee was unanimously voted in, on bloc. There was an appeal for people to join the committee.

8. Presentation of Trophies

Keith presented trophies to:

Farnborough Mens A	Summer 2025 league winners
Brightwell Ladies A and Mixed A	Summer 2025 league winners
Avondale Mens A	Winter 2024/25 league winners
Camberley Ladies A	Winter 2024/25 league winners
Brightwell Mixed A	Winter 2024/25 league winners

Pennants for the division winners were available for collection at the end of the AGM.

9. Junior tennis

Junior leagues were held this summer, the results were mixed, hampered by a lot of unknown players and scores.

Paul was able to gather feedback which was generally positive. A number of clubs had trouble entering results and Paul reiterated that he is there to help. Keith queried if you needed to be registered to enter results and Paul confirmed this was the case.

This league is not aimed at players of a national standard, it is there for friendly but competitive matches. Bourne stated that they were keen to have such matches and might be able to give up court space for them. As a result of feedback Paul is looking at holding "events" with multiple of teams at one location so if a team had to drop out there would still be plenty of tennis for those that could attend.

10. Proposals

1: Frimley

To reintroduce the 10-point match tie break for Mens doubles, only, for the summer league.

Frimley explained that their men wanted to reintroduce the tie break. Their ladies and mixed teams were happy to continue with the current format.

A Busbridge lady stated that she would like it for the mixed league to get a clear winner and a Camberley player stated that their mixed teams would also prefer a 10pt tie break.

As a straightforward proposal there was no more discussion only a vote.

For: 11
 Against: 13
 Abstentions: 6
 Not carried.

2: Ash

The abandonment rules should be the same for all matches, i.e. mens, ladies and mixed in both summer and winter: 2 Rubbers & 1st set of Matches 3 & 4 complete.

Carole Lee felt that as the formats were different this rule change was not acceptable. In the 200 ladies matches last winter only 8 met the abandonment criteria and 4 were not replayed as the requisite number of rubbers had been completed leaving 4 out of 200 matches for which this rule could apply and she felt that it was not worth considering a rule change for such a small number of matches.

Darren admitted that sometimes he has offered short cuts in matches that are close to the wire for finishing so the statistics could be incorrect. Cath commented that winter matches could be more affected by weather as they are played during the day and less affected by light issues. It was noted that if matches don't actually start until 7pm they are more likely to run out of time.

For: 20
Against: 5
Abstentions: 5
Carried.

3: Farnborough

We'd like to find a mutually satisfactory way to speed up matches in such a way as we can have a Championship Tie-break at one set all, so we propose trialling a change to **midweek mixed matches in the 26/27 Winter league**, with one of the following, based on a majority vote: -

- a) Sudden death deuces, the server will serve to the player of the same gender.
- b) One "normal" deuce followed by a sudden death deuce (as above) if the game isn't won after the 1st deuce.

Farnborough explained that they found it unsatisfactory not getting a result and thought that by reducing the number of deuces it would be more likely.

Keith commented that captains don't always understand the current rules so this could cause confusion.

It was commented that not all games went to deuce and that a tiebreak is not always needed for a result, also if matches start on time there is more chance of completing them. One lady commented that if she lost a game on a net cord at deuce she would feel very hard done by. Andrew stated that draws are not unusual in the league, even with tiebreaks there could still be draws. Cath commented that sometimes deuces can take ages however others felt that the back and forwards of deuces and advantages added excitement to a game.

For: 3
Against: A very clear majority.
Not carried.

There was some general support for shortening matches, Sarah (Worplesdon) commented that winter weekend matches often consisted of 2 sets (3rd set tiebreak not required) whereas in the summer evening matches, often after a day at work, the current format meant playing 4 sets which was too much for some players and could go on too late especially if juniors (younger players) were involved. In the old format only 3 sets were played.

11. AOB

A query from the floor asked if there had to be a general consensus when it came to stopping a match as there are no specific rules.

It was agreed that common sense should prevail and it was not a specific home team or away team decision but a joint one.

Annette Kratz said that Brightwell would be keen to play friendlies if other clubs were interested to give less experienced and less confident lady players gentle match experience.

The start date of the league was queried, there had been an expectation that the league would start earlier. At a previous AGM it was agreed that the start date for summer leagues would be made earlier and it was thought that this may have lead to the expectation of an earlier start date for the winter leagues too.

It was asked why captains were not allowed to change the date of their matches in order to field their best team, especially those teams wanting good competitive matches against strong opposition. Carole explained that such rearrangements are not allowed because there is no guarantee of reciprocation. One team can agree a rearrangement but then if they can't get their best team out that day and ask for a rearrangement their opposition can say no, annoying and unfair to the team that originally agreed to a rearrangement.

Brian Greig wanted to say a few words as he is standing down from the committee after over 35 years as junior secretary. During his time on the committee Brian said that he had seen the numbers of juniors playing tennis rise and fall several times and that he was delighted the numbers had picked up again in the last 3 to 4 years and that Paul was building up the junior leagues. Brian has served on a number of committees and felt that the ADLTA committee had been well run with Keith doing a sterling job supported by Alison and that the leagues secretaries put in a lot of effort behind the scenes. It had been a real pleasure to be on the committee.

Brian was then presented with a thank you gift.

Sam, who is also standing down was presented with a thank you gift. The gift for Darrell was not presented as she was unable to attend.