



**West Kent Table Tennis Association
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
26th June 2015
at
Leigh Small Village Hall**

Attendees:

| | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Malcolm Cole (Chairman) (MC) | Steve Day (SD) | Brian Lees (BL) |
| Ming Majoe (MM) | Roger Pingram (RP) | Ty Stalberg (TS) |
| Roger Harris (RH) | Sarah Maris | Mike Sefton |
| Nick Smith | Geoff Curtis | Peter Duke |
| Sue Sullivan | Tony York | Toby Leheup |
| Mark Heaton | Alan Woollven | |

Apologies for Absence:

| | | |
|--------------|------------|--------------|
| Neil Marsden | Dan Powley | John Neal |
| Dave Cowlen | Ian Evans | John Davison |

1. WELCOME

The Chairman (MC) opened the meeting by welcoming all those present and advising 'Apologies for Absence'. He also thanked fellow committee members for their support and hard work during the year.

2. MINUTES OF 2014/15 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the previous season's AGM were approved with one amendment, that Peter Duke be added to the list of attendees, following which a proposal was received from the floor that they be adopted as a true record. The floor seconded the proposal.

3. MATTERS ARISING

None

4. REPORTS

General Secretary, Steve Day (SD) gave his report for the season 2014/15, including a summary of our Kent League teams' performances. A copy of which is attached (Appendix A).

SD highlighted the changes that had been successfully introduced and the success that WKTTA had had during the season in question, at all levels.

Treasurer, Brian Lees gave a brief report on the Association's financial status. Copies of the accounts (Appendix B) were circulated to the meeting attendees. Highlights were:

- Revenue was higher than previous season largely due to receipts from Sunday morning practice sessions, advertising revenues and Closed Tournament fees. However, expenses were also higher largely due to increased venue and equipment resulting from the previously mentioned practice sessions
- Overall a loss of £216.91 was incurred which was lower than last year
- Given the ongoing investment being made this was deemed a good result
- The Association remains £3,525.95 in credit
- The accounts are unaudited at present, however, an audit will take place shortly

Subject to the normal audit taking place the accounts were adopted.

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The President, Treasurer and Registration Secretary were re-elected. However, the Chairman and the General Secretary stood down with Tyron Stalberg and Dave Cowlen being elected as replacements, respectively. Roger Pingram was elected Vice Chairman to replace Tyron Stalberg, upon the latter becoming Chairman. Roger Harris was elected Development Officer and as such will replace SD as Chair the Development sub committee.

Sarah Maris, Tony York, Neil Marsden and Nick Smith were re-elected on block, as members of the General Committee. John Davison resigned after many years of excellent service.

All existing Vice Presidents, with exception of John Knock, Harry Hart and Doreen Levy all of whom sadly passed away during the year, were re-elected as Vice Presidents. SD was proposed as a Vice President in recognition of past services and accepted.

At this point TS took over the Chair and conducted the meeting.

6. PROPOSALS

a) Constitution and Rules

A proposal was made to amend the rules to remove any anomalies and bring them in line with the current status of WKTTA and its competitions. It was acknowledged that some further amendments might need to be made upon approval of the changes being proposed to the League Structure. Details are attached – Appendix C.

b) Change to League Structure

SD introduced the background to the changes being sought and handed out copies of the detailed proposal to those attending.

Some concerns were raised from the floor including:

- playing a match on two tables or more affected team spirit and made it difficult to follow the match's progress

- given its current state of repair and the sometimes unsavoury nature of some of the local inhabitants that congregate outside the club at night, playing more matches at Teen & Twenty Club would not be popular with some members
- fixture scheduling made difficult if more than one table is used per match
- the proposal seemed to just focus on developing and top players; what about those in the middle?

After lengthy debate, the following proposals were made and adopted or amended where indicated:

i) Competitions

The divisions of our main league will be renamed as follows:

Division 1 to become Premier Division **ADOPTED**

Division 2 to become Intermediate Division **NOT ADOPTED**

Counter Proposal to rename Division 2 as Division 1 - ADOPTED

The additional competitions will be:

- Development Division (no change) - **ADOPTED**
- Doubles League (no change) - **ADOPTED**
- Singles League (new banded/ratings competition) - **ADOPTED**

ii) Format **(ALL ADOPTED)**

Premier & Division 1

- Run from late September to early April
- 3 player teams, no doubles
- Teams play each other twice, subject to min number of teams
- No automatic promotion or relegation between divisions
- Where possible every match will be played on multiple tables concurrently. Where two matches are taking place at the same venue, and there are three tables available, one table will be shared by both matches.
- **More details of the practical issues surrounding the latter point are to be forwarded to all clubs and members**

Development Division

- No material change - full details to be agreed subject entries
- Central Venue format for fixtures shared between Otford and Teen & Twenty

Doubles League

- No material change anticipated, subject to number of entries

- 2 player teams
- Approximately one meeting per month
- Run throughout the regular season with fixtures being played during the week that neither the Premier nor Intermediate Division is playing
- Central Venue format at Teen & Twenty

Singles League

- New banded competition – based on player ratings
- Run after completion of Premier and Intermediate Divisions
- Central Venue format
- Full details to be provided nearer the time and subject to entry

iii) League Composition (**ALL ADOPTED**)

Premier Division

- Teams comprise players of a rating of 2000 and above
- Clubs will apply to join by submitting details of teams to WKTTA
- Exceptions will be made by the Committee where deemed appropriate (such as potential ability, ambition, other performance related aspects)
- Players below a rating of 2000 will be permitted to 'play up' if a team is short
- No 'playing down' between teams from the same club
- Number of teams within league decided by the Committee based on compliance with rating threshold requirements
- Maximum number of teams expected is ten (but is of course subject to entry and may be 9)

Division 1

- Teams comprise players of a rating of below 2000
- Clubs will apply to join by submitting details of team competitions to WKTTA
- Exceptions will be made by the Committee where deemed appropriate (such as potential ability, ambition, other performance related aspects)
- Players from the Development Division will be permitted to 'play up' if a team is short
- No 'playing down' between teams from the same club
- Number of teams within league decided by the Committee based on compliance with rating threshold requirements
- The number of teams expected is eight (but of course is subject to entry and may be 7 or 9).

Whilst there is no automatic promotion between divisions at the team level, it is anticipated that players can be 'promoted' to the higher division as a result of rating progression and improved standard.

The emphasis is on clubs to manage their players according to preference, ability, ambition and potential. Clubs and players may apply to have ratings reviewed by the Committee.

iv) New Teams and Unattached Players (**ADOPTED**)

New teams and individual players not associated to an existing club will be accepted either within an existing club, or as an affiliated WKTTA team.

v) Venues

WKTTA's objective is for all matches to be played at one Central Venue where playing conditions are of a higher standard and the same for all participants. Our aim is to have found a central venue(s) in readiness for the 2016/17 season. In the meantime matches will continue to be played on a 'home and away' basis at our current venues.

We are actively seeking a venue for use on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, which can also be used for our Closed Tournament and on other occasions for WK activities.

Oxford Church Hall was suggested as an additional venue for Oxford TTC.

RH advised that he had viewed several sites in and around the local area. Schools are keen to hire out their gyms to gain additional revenue and this avenue of enquiry will be continued. RH was given the mandate to continue the search

ADOPTED subject to further member approval being sought by way of an EGM particularly for any contracts containing a financial liability to WKTTA

vi) Fixtures – Premier and Division 1 (**ADOPTED**)

- Teams will mostly play three matches in every four-week period
- Where possible every match will be played on two tables concurrently. Where two matches are taking place at the same venue, and there are three tables available, one table will be shared by both matches.
- Matches will commence no later than 7.45pm with a view to completion by 10pm, latest.
- Where possible, there will be a 2/3-week break over the Christmas/New Year period.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

In his capacity as newly elected Development Officer, RH circulated a note which outline his (and the committee's) thoughts on the future of WKTTA – Appendix D. The emphasis was placed on all clubs and members working together in a cohesive way to the benefit of the whole local table tennis community. RH undertook to improve two-way communication and keep members informed of developments.

Feedback was requested once the attendees had time to digest the information and discuss it with club members.

8. PRESENTATION OF TROPHIES

MC and President, MM presented last season's winners with their trophies.

Alan Woollven was presented with the prestigious Table Tennis England Maurice Goldstein Award for exceptional service to the sport.

MC also received a gift on behalf of members for his services whilst he was Chairman.

9. MEETING CLOSURE

TS thanked all for attending and declared the meeting closed at 10.12pm.