

ABERDEEN AND DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

***Secretary: Alison Woods
86 Carnie Avenue
Elrick
Westhill
AB32 6HT***

30 November 2020

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – MONDAY 14 DECEMBER 2020

VIA ONLINE ZOOM

Please find herewith the Agenda for the Annual General Meeting to be held on Monday 14 December 2020 via online ZOOM along with a copy of the Minutes from the 2019 AGM.

The four reports listed on the Agenda (items 5 - 8) will be available to view on the ADTTA website not later than Monday 7 December 2020.

The Association earnestly requests that each team be represented at the meeting, as it is your opportunity to express your views on the organisation and future development of table tennis in Aberdeen District.

Members who wish to join the AGM online should send their details to a.woods179@btinternet.com not later than Monday 7 December 2020. Joining instructions will be forwarded to attendees in due course.

Alison Woods

Alison Woods
Secretary

encs

ABERDEEN AND DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

**Secretary: Alison Woods
86 Carnie Avenue
Elrick
Westhill
AB32 6HT**

30 November 2020

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – MONDAY 14 DECEMBER 2020

VIA ONLINE ZOOM

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Adoption of Minutes of 2019 AGM
3. Matters Arising
4. Chairman's Opening Remarks
5. Secretary's Report
6. Match Secretary's Report
7. Financial Report
8. Development Report
9. Proposed Amendments to the Constitution and Rules
10. Other Outstanding Business from Season 2019/2020, including:
 - a) Presentation of Trophies
 - b) Honoraria
11. Election of Committee
12. Appointment of Auditors
13. Hand over to new Executive Committee
14. Any Business Relating to Season 2020/2021
15. Any Other Competent Business

ABERDEEN AND DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

The Annual General Meeting of the Association was held in Seminar Room 2, Aberdeen Sports Village, Linksfield Road, Aberdeen on Tuesday 21 May 2019.

The following people were present:

Donald Pirie	Vice Chairman/AU	Doug Farquharson	Nordan
Alison Woods	Secretary	Abby Birnie	Nordan
Brian Robertson	Treasurer/Triangle	Dave Mullen	Nordan
Chris Davenport	Match Secretary/Shell	Mike Moir	Nordan
Max Singer	Committee/ASV Coach	Steve McHattie	Shell
Gregor Ksiazek	Committee/CTM	Nigel Herbert	CTM
Catherine Inverarity	Committee	Ian Davies	Stonehaven
Ralston Johnston	Triangle	Alex Wilowska	Grammar
Rob Tanner	Triange	James Allan	Alford
Robert Gibb	Triangle	Kirsty Allan	Alford
Doug Sinclair	Triangle	John Allan	Alford
Romas Jurgutis	Triangle	Oliver McMillan	Alford
Juris Zarins	Triangle	Doug Seller	
Mitch Reid	Triangle	Sandy Duncan	Westhill
Ross Martin	AU	Mark Brown	Westhill
Andrew McRae	AU	Derek Green	CSI
Karen McRae			

1. Apologies for Absence:

Apologies were received from Dave Curry, Dick Ferro, Sandy Robertson, Andy Keith, George Keith, Harry Vine, Yasser Qureshi, Derek Milne, John Herron, Jamie Glendinning, David Low, Natalie Gallan and Charlie Flint.

2. Adoption of Minutes of 2018 AGM:

These were distributed and approved. Adoption proposed by Mitch Reid and seconded by Rob Tanner.

3. Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's Opening Remarks:

Dave Curry was unable to attend the meeting however Donald Pire spoke on his behalf. He thanked everyone for attending and contributing during the season which has been very competitive with an extra division required.

In respect of the EC, Alison Woods does a huge amount for ADTTA and TTS while Chris Davenport has done a fantastic job as Match Secretary which is difficult to do and can be a thankless task. Brian Robertson has also done a great job as our Treasurer and submitted lots of applications for funding which have been successful with ring-fenced funds granted. Max Singer and Dick Ferro continue to do sterling work on the development front with Dick pretty much a full time volunteer. Our performance coaches Natalie Gallan and David Low dedicate a lot of time to coaching while Natalie is also our Child Protection Officer. Gregor Ksiazek is our technical expert and updates the website, produces handicaps from the Ratings Central System and also takes fantastic photos of our events. Thanks also go to Catherine Inverarity and Dave Lomax for their input during the season.

5. Secretary's Report:

Alison Woods distributed copies of her report to members at the meeting.

League Results:	Division 1 Division 2 Division 3 Division 4	AU Eagles Triangle Trio Triange Lit-Lat Shell Gannets
KO Cup:	Winners Runners-Up	Triangle Swifts CTM B
North of Scotland Shield:	Winners Runners-Up	CTM B AU Harriers
Grampian Trophy:	Winners Runners-Up	Triangle Turtles Nordan UK
Granite City Shield:	Winners Runners-Up	Stonehaven Fireballs 1 AU Ospreys
Bon Accord Trophy:	Winners Runners-Up	Alford TTC Nordan Evergreens
Donald Campbell Trophy:	David Low	
Coaches Award:	Harry Blackhall	
Kevin Moir Memorial Trophy:	Andrew McRae	

6. Match Secretary's Report:

Chris Davenport distributed copies of the final league positions along with the top players in each of the divisions to the meeting along with the results from the five cup finals. In his report he thanked the team secretaries and players for a very successful season and also Gregor Ksiazek for providing invaluable support in managing the handicaps.

At the meeting Chris thanked all participants – this season there were approx. 150 players – and it was good having four divisions which meant that although there were less matches, there was more scope for teams to fulfil fixtures. Chris added that his report has been summarised and there is a lot more detailed information on the website. Gregor has been a great help with the handicaps which is essentially an algorithm based on results. The league itself has been very competitive, particularly the second and fourth divisions, and it was great to see new teams involved. Chris congratulated the top players in each division – Ross Martin, Derek Reid, Juris Zarins and Derek Green.

Finally, Chris commented that the match secretaries did a great job this year with everything completed in good time, only a small number of defaulted matches throughout the season and minimum disruptions.

7. Financial Report:

Brian Robertson distributed copies of the Treasurer's Report, incorporating a detailed Income and Expenditure Statement, to the meeting and thanked Andy Keith and Doug Sinclair for conducting the audit so diligently.

Brian advised that there had been a big change this year with three successful grant applications for development projects. All of these are ring-fenced and require annual reports to be submitted. The DCI project has a four year term with SportScotland as the key funding provider with additional generous funding support from Strategic Resources Recruitment which has enabled us to appoint two Development Officers – Catherine Inverarity and Rob Barsby.

With regard to the league's own finances there was almost a 25% increase in affiliation fees, due to the significant increase in the number of clubs and teams, while a small surplus was made on tournaments. Brian commented that the North Confined had been very successful with the improved format attracting more players.

Chris Davenport asked if it would be easier to open separate bank accounts for the new projects however Brian replied that this is not really a problem and could be more costly with bank fees.

8. Development Report:

Dick Ferro was unable to attend the meeting however he had prepared a comprehensive report which Donald Pirie went through on his behalf.

The Saltire-funded taster sessions at ASV were reinstated after a year's absence and concentrated on primary schools in the ASV catchment area. There were also invitations to a range of other schools throughout the city and Shire and, in all, over 1400 youngsters were given a taste of table tennis.

Dick thanked the wonderful volunteers and coaches who have run 10 after school or weekend clubs for juniors in the region. There are also drop-in sessions at ASV on Mondays and Fridays which attract increasing numbers of children from P4 upwards. More coaches are really needed at these sessions and Donald also added that anyone interested in helping out would be most welcome.

With regard to development, Catherine and Rob have been very busy in their new roles as part-time Development Officers with their aim to help local communities establish sustainable TT clubs and there are already enthusiastic groups developing. Indeed we already have new teams in the league from Alford and Turriff and hopefully this will lead to interest from other areas.

Dick advised that a variety of coaching courses are run throughout the year so if anyone wishes to learn how to coach at any level please let him know.

The Aberdeen City over 55 sessions continue to be well-supported with the main problem being there are now too many players! In Aberdeenshire there are now 7 over 50 sessions with new ones being planned in several more communities. Over the whole region in the last 12 months there has been an increase of over 30% in player participation compared to the previous year.

Thanks to grants from TTS we were able to fund three development projects. Another schools league was completed over the winter at ASV and thanks go to Lewis Forbes for organising this successful competition. We are also introducing TT in 4 sheltered housing units or care homes in the city which the residents are really enjoying. Finally, eight talented 8-11 year olds were given additional coaching over Xmas and New Year.

Dick concluded his report by thanking all the coaches and volunteers as well as the ADTTA committee for helping to make major progress this year in developing table tennis in our area.

Max Singer spoke on TT Academy activities and explained that he is employed by ASV and goes into the schools in this catchment area although he also helps Dick at other schools. The Academy itself continues to flourish with a few promising youngsters under the age of 9, including some from Turriff. The ASV Academy won Team Performance of the Year at this year's Aberdeen Sports Awards which was a tremendous achievement. Max added that none of this would have been possible without the coaches and volunteers involved.

At the Scottish Interleague event, Aberdeen won four of the team events, including the Minor Boys for the 7th successive year, and were runners-up in the Ladies which led to them winning the Stewart McGowan Trophy, awarded to the region with most points, for the first time. In addition four local youngsters along with NPC Natalie Gallan travelled to Ireland to compete at the British Primary Schools Championships with the boys' team collecting bronze medals for their efforts. Five of our players have qualified to represent Scotland at the British Senior Schools Championships which take place in Guernsey at the end of June.

9. Proposed Redraft of the Constitution and Rules:

Donald Pirie spoke on the background to the proposed redraft of the Constitution and Rules which came following discussions at last year's AGM. Chris Davenport advised that a sub-committee had been formed and a lot of time had been spent on the redraft which included looking at what other Associations have in place. There was also input from SportScotland who made some suggestions as certain areas needed to be done differently.

It was decided to split the Constitution and Rules into two separate documents with the rationale behind this being that the Constitution, once approved, should not require to be changed going forward whereas the Rules may be. Both documents are quite a bit shorter and hopefully improved. Chris thanked those on the sub-committee for their work on this very important subject.

Brian Robertson added that SportScotland advised our funding for the DCI project would only be granted on the proviso that certain changes were made. These documents were sent out to team secretaries prior to the meeting and a two-thirds majority is required in order for the Constitution and Rules to be adopted. There are three changes in particular worthy of comment. The first relates to members and voting rights. Previously votes were restricted to team representatives however now all affiliated members present at an AGM are entitled to vote. Another responsibility the Association has is to its members. It is vital that all players are adequately insured and the simplest method of doing this is for each Club to affiliate to TTS. Most Clubs already do this but the EC are of the opinion that all Clubs should do so from the start of the 2019/20 season. Finally, due to the increased level of activity carried out by the Association, payment by cheque is not often the best method. Therefore the option of payment by electronic bank transfer, with appropriate pre-approvals has been added.

Mike Moir commented that he would like to see promotion and relegation re-introduced to stop things going stale while Rob Tanner said we should look at running an elite (premier) division. Doug Farquharson agreed with this and said that if three teams were dropped from Division 1 this would make Division 2 more competitive. Doug added that the divisions should reflect the standard of players and Turriff struggled this season. Doug Seller asked on the placings of players in the divisions which is mentioned in the rules while Colin Morrice raised the subject of a league split. Gregor Ksiazek said it is not always possible to do a league split if all teams haven't played their matches. Dave Mullen said young players should always be playing better players in order to help them improve.

Doug Seller asked for clarification on section 11 of the Constitution in relation to the Code of Conduct which Brian Robertson responded to.

Dave Mullen asked if clause 8.4 of the Rules which relates to a 72 hour notice period to postpone a match would be strictly enforced. Discussion took place on this and the general consensus was that is preferable to play matches wherever possible and ideally matches should only be claimed if there is no chance of them being played during the season.

Separate votes took place on the adoption of firstly, the Constitution, and secondly, the Rules, with both carried unanimously.

Only Nigel Herbert voted against the Rules as he felt some of the wording was a little draconian as players have previously been flexible in rearranging matches. Nigel added that he did not like clause 8.8 which relates to the substitution of players either. Donald Pirie commented that he hopes that some flexibility will still exist going forward.

10. Other Outstanding Business from 2018/2019:

a) Presentation of Outstanding Trophies:

All league and cup winners were presented with their awards.

The Coaches Award was presented by Max Singer to Harry Blackhall who has improved tremendously this season. Harry has shown great commitment to our sport, playing and attending coaching sessions at every opportunity.

The Kevin Moir Memorial Trophy was presented to the league's top junior player this season, Andrew McRae.

The Donald Campbell Trophy will be presented to David Low at the ASV Academy at a later date.

b) Honoraria:

Brian Robertson and Chris Davenport both declined to accept an honorarium.

Abby Birnie proposed that the Secretary (Alison Woods) and Development Officer (Dick Ferro) each receive an honorarium of £275. This was seconded by Robert Tanner and the motion carried unanimously.

Alison Woods advised that she only wished to accept the current honorarium of £250.

11. Election of Committee:

The members of the EC indicated that they were willing to continue in their positions and this was accepted by the meeting.

The Committee therefore comprises as follows:

Chairman – Dave Curry, Vice-Chairman – Donald Pirie, Secretary – Alison Woods
Treasurer – Brian Robertson, Match Secretary – Chris Davenport
Development Officer – Dick Ferro
EC Members – Max Singer, Natalie Gallan, David Low, Gregor Ksiazek, Dave Lomax, Jamie Glendinning

12. Appointment of Auditors:

Brian Robertson advised that both Andy Keith and Doug Sinclair did not wish to continue in their roles as Auditors. Mark Brown and Derek Green offered their services and this was approved by the meeting.

13. Hand over to new Executive Committee:

14. Any Business Relating to Season 2019/2020:

a) Rob Tanner raised the subject of plastic balls and asked if all teams could please use the same ball. Doug Farquharson suggested this be trialled for one season while Dave Mullen proposed that Chris Davenport send an email to team secretaries to gauge their views and also the opinions of their team mates. After discussion it was agreed that we go along with ITTF rules for next season which does not actually specify any particular type of plastic ball.

b) Dave Mullen asked that the EC source a central/neutral venue for finals night as some teams can benefit from a home advantage when this takes place at ASV. Brian Robertson responded that the finals are played at ASV as it is the central venue and showcases table tennis in Aberdeen. Mike Moir commented that the event was well organised and it was great that there were umpires arranged for the matches however he added that the number of spectators was disappointing.

- c) Colin Green asked what the position is with affiliation fees. Brian Robertson replied that there will be no change to ADTTA fees for next season however we don't know as yet whether TTS are proposing to increase their fees.
- d) Doug Seller expressed his concern at the lack of matches during the season due to some of the divisions being smaller. Chris Davenport said the EC would look at the format for next season to see if this could be addressed. Catherine Inverarity suggested a plate event for teams who are knocked out in the first round of the KO Cup. Donald Pirie added that some University teams arranged friendly matches and are also running a singles league on one night. Chris Davenport advised that we will be contacting teams earlier than normal prior to the season starting as he will be away for three weeks in September
- e) Sandy Duncan asked why there is no contact details available on the ADTTA website. Chris Davenport explained that this is due to GDPR and the EC made the decision to remove this information from the website. Chris does, however, email the relevant details to team secretaries. Doug Seller suggested we investigate a password protected system however Brian Robertson said that we don't know the long term outlook for TT365 as Table Tennis England have moved to another provider. For next season anyway we can continue to use TT365. Catherine Inverarity commented that it would be useful to have an accessible site for members.

15. Any Other Competent Business:

- a) Donald Pirie mentioned that there is ADTTA apparel and should members be interested in purchasing any items, these are available at cost price.

There being no other business, the Vice Chairman thanked everyone for attending and contributing and closed the meeting at 9.25pm.

Signed *Alison Woods*..... (Secretary)