**Minutes of the Chalfonts & District Table Tennis League**

**Held Monday 9 April 2018 at Coppermine, Mill Lane, Chalfont St Giles HP8 4NX**

**Present** Nigel Naylor-Smith(Acting Chair), Hazel Williamson, Stefan Koenig, David Morgan, Richard Cottle.

1. **Apologies**

* Apologies received from Steve Dunn, Peter Leckie Jnr, Derek Hughes.

1. **Approval of Minutes**

* The February minutes were confirmed as an accurate record and duly signed and approved.

1. **Matters Arising – Review of Outstanding Actions**

**Feb A1 – January minutes to be uploaded onto website –** *completed – item closed.*

**Feb A2 – Championship deadline to be extended to 24/2/18 and further pleas to players to participate to be made via TT365 –** *action completed, but given lack of interest the scheduled Championships were cancelled.*

**Feb A3 – Book AGM venue –** SK confirmed this had been done – *completed, item closed.*

**Feb A4 – Remind relevant officers that written reports are required for Top Spin Attack –** NNS advised he had not sent a separate email – to be covered later under AGM Planning.

**Feb A5 – All closed championship trophies to be collected and returned to S Dunn. List of trophy winners to be provided to S Dunn –** all trophies have been collected and returned to Committee – *completed – item closed.*

1. **League Performance**

* No change in the structure, with 98 registered players. All scorecards received electronically or by hand. There are 3 outstanding matches; - Div 1 Chalfont A vs Chalfont B – to be played 11/4/18. Div 2 – St Josephs vs Chalfont C and Chalfont D vs St Josephs. HW advised that St Josephs had offered to play the Chalfont C match on 9/4/18 but the notice provided was too short to arrange a team. Efforts are ongoing to rearrange. It was agreed these matches need to be played quickly, to ensure season is concluded and all results included in Top Spin Attack. RC said he would liaise with St Josephs to expedite.
* 100/103 results are on the website. Div 1 winners are Denham Village A from Denham Village B. Div 2 winners are Hillingdon from Denham Village D. Div 3 winners are Denham Village G from Denham Village F.

1. **Fairbank Cup – Final Preparations**

* This will take place 10 April at the Chalfont St Giles venue, between Denham Village A and Ickenham URC. Ron Bryant is unable to umpire, but it was subsequently confirmed that Fanny Speck will undertake the role of tournament umpire. DM confirmed an email has been sent to team captains and he hoped that spectators would turn up. It was also confirmed that the match is advertised on TT365 and the League’s Facebook page.
* The venue will be open from 7pm to set up, match to commence at 7.30pm. NNS will bring light refreshments in line with last year. RC will bring a scoreboard. It was confirmed that some new lights have been installed at the venue.

1. **End of Season Tournament**

* The March Championships had to be cancelled due to the lack of entries and the inability to run a viable event. Debate had taken place subsequently with regard to an end of season tournament (as opposed to a formal Championships), which had received general support from Committee. Target date for the event is Sunday 29 April although Denham Village Hall is unavailable. Alternatives comprise the smaller hall at Harefield (max 3 tables) or utilising part of the new Hillingdon facility. With regard to the latter Eli Baraty is running an event on the same day. RC has contacted Eli Baraty to establish the feasibility of utilising a part of the hall (max 4 tables) but is yet to hear back. Costs for hall hire for either venue are as yet unknown.
* Preference is to use the Hillingdon venue, subject to availability and acceptable cost, as this would provide greater flexibility. However, until confirmed, use of Harefield remains a possibility, and dependent on which venue is chosen, this will dictate the number of potential entrants, and whether this remains a ‘closed’ or ‘open’ event. DM said it would be impossible to structure an ‘open’ event using the Fairbank Cup handicaps, as a number of players would be likely to play in different leagues and have no Fairbank handicap. SK expressed concern that there would be a lack of interest, with less than 3 weeks’ notice of any event. However, it was agreed that in all likelihood any event would follow Chris Lee’s ‘fun tournament’ structure as opposed to the formal Championships organisation. It was considered possible to operate a handicap event alongside a ‘Top Table’ event subject to sufficient entrants.
* DM advised he would not be able to attend due to a prior engagement.
* ***It was agreed that*** RC would establish from Eli Baraty if use of the Hillingdon venue is feasible, failing which this will revert to Harefield. Once established, NNS will contact players via TT365 to establish support for such a tournament and take forward accordingly. To defray costs an entry fee of say £5 per player will be considered.

1. **AGM Planning**

* With regard to the forthcoming AGM on 14/5/18;-
* *Proposal of subscription fees –* SK proposed that these would remain at the same level.
* *Committee re-election / vacancies –* NNS advised there are 3 vacancies, ie Chairman, Championship Secretary (following Steve Dunn’s resignation) and Publicity Officer. It was reported that Steve Dunn will not be playing for Denham next year, which will also create issues for the club. RC said he would try to generate interest, but no ready replacement for Championship Secretary was identified. It was agreed that the Publicity Officer role could be managed across the existing committee roles, RC confirming that he still had to produce some outstanding reports for submission to Bucks Advertiser. NNS confirmed that he was happy to undertake the dual role of Chairman and General Secretary, although the role of Chair would be offered out at the AGM.
* *Bob Baines Award –* As previously minuted, Bev Baines was keen to establish an annual award in Bob’s name, specifically aimed towards good conduct / volunteering and sportsmanship within the league, to be presented annually at the AGM. After discussion, it was agreed this would be called the ‘Chalfonts & District Bob Baines Award’. Potential suggestions from the floor were requested, which will be read out at the AGM, nominations as follows;-

Yoey Pang – Brunel – for the work in integrating the two new Brunel teams into the League

Mickey Dalston – St Josephs – for improving the profile of the club and gaining promotion

Carys Evans – for her coaching of juniors

Richard Cottle – for all his work with the junior leagues, coaching thereof and making Denham Village such a key club within the League

It was unanimously agreed that Richard Cottle will be the inaugural award winner on the basis that he epitomises what volunteering is all about and without whose efforts there would probably be no viable Chalfont League.

* NNS advised that Top Spin Attack needs to be produced by early May and called for Committee members’ reports to have been submitted to him **by 23 April latest** (email to be sent). Work has already started on its preparation. 10 extra copies will be made available at the AGM.
* DM will ensure pictures are taken of the Fairbank Cup finalists / winners for inclusion. NNS will also contact Simon Coleman (Hillingdon) and request pictures of the Div 2 winning team.
* It was confirmed the AGM will be significantly shorter this year as there is no guest speaker and no Championship trophies to present. This was not considered to be a problem as members could adjourn to the bar and make the event more of a social occasion.
* *Rule Changes –* NNS confirmed members have already been circulated for potential rule changes. RC had already raised, via email, the issue of time-outs, but it was confirmed this was approved unanimously at last year’s AGM and is included as Rule 10m in the handbook. RC outlined that it is now permissible for coaching to take place during a set provided this did not interrupt the flow of play and is now an ITTF rule. This was not widely known among Committee members, although the general consensus was that this did not appear to be a rule that the League wished to adopt. RC agreed to obtain clarity from ETTA and the matter will be brought to the AGM for general discussion via a submitted rule change.

1. **Date of Club Secretaries Meeting**

* It was generally agreed that last year’s Club Secretaries’ meeting (3/7/17) was held too early, and with all relevant information being on the website, production of handbooks is not imperative ahead of the start of the season. The provisional date for the Club Secretaries’ meeting will be Monday 6/8/18. Venue is likely to be St Josephs – RC will take forward room booking. The only potential change in club secretary might be for Brunel – RC will liaise accordingly.

1. **Officers’ Reports**

**Chairman** – N/A.

**General Secretary** – Nothing further to report.

**Treasurer –** Denham Village has finally paid all subscriptions. There is a cost of £292 for trophies that J Johnson has organised in respect of Fairbank Cup and divisional winners / runners-up. It was anticipated an annual operating loss of c£50 will be incurred, in line with last year.

**Match Secretary –** HW advised there is an article on Dexter Dalston on the website as he will be representing Bucks County in the upcoming schools national finals.

**Inter League Secretary –** Nothing to report.

**Development Officer –** Email report received from RC subsequent to Committee meeting, as follows;-

The final junior league session was held on March 24, after having to postpone the original date because of snow. It was a great session with the juniors progressing well and really enjoying the matches. Reach Atticus came out on top of the first division with Denham Dodgers winning the second division.

The places on the upcoming senior coaching sessions with Eli Baraty are now fully booked -Apr 27th and May 11th. I am planning some more over the next few months. The league kindly subsidised this last year but this time the player’s entry fees will cover all the costs.

I shall be talking further with our friends at Reach TT club with a view to them entering the senior league next season.

I am planning to hold an open TT night or two at St Joseph’s church with the aim of getting a second team in there, will let you know date when I have it as I may need some help. After the Easter Break I am hoping Nigel and I can go over to a Monday night session or two at Brunel University to keep the good vibes going with them through the closed season.

RC has also spoken with Steve Keyes at Hillingdon and it is hoped that a second Hillingdon team will be entered into the senior league next season. He will also speak with Rickmansworth to see if a team can be re-entered into the league.

JUNIOR LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Reach Atticus | 28 |
| Denham Demons | 23 |
| CSP Tornado’s | 17 |
| CSP Butterfly | 10 |
| Denham Dynamo’s | 9 |
| Reach  Radley | 3 |

JUNIOR LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Denham Dodgers | 20 |
| Hillingdon Harriers | 18 |
| Denham Dragons | 18 |
| CSP Aces | 15 |
| Hillingdon Heroes | 10 |
| CSP Allstars | 9 |

NNS has established that a number of table tennis players visit William Penn Leisure Centre. The centre has kindly agreed to accept flyers from Chalfont League to see if new league players can be obtained from this source. NNS will also circulate flyers to Committee members so these can be placed at additional leisure centres / village halls, subject to agreement. He also advised that the League’s Facebook page was attracting reasonable traffic, with 10-15% of the league’s membership visiting on a regular basis. It was also advised that Chiltern League had a sizeable article included in the Bucks Advertiser regarding their Junior league and a similar report might also benefit the Chalfont League.

**County Representative –** Nothing to report (as per email from Derek).

**Publicity Officer –** N/A

**Fairbank Cup Officer –** Nothing further to report.

**Championship Secretary –** N/A.

1. **Any Other Business**

* DM asked if any of the teams finishing 2nd in their respective leagues had requested a play-off against teams finishing 2nd bottom in the league above for promotion and relegation purposes. HW confirmed no contact so far. It was agreed that 2nd place teams should be at least made aware of this opportunity, although given 2nd placed teams in Div 2 and Div 3 are both from Denham, RC considered this to be unlikely. Additionally, this rule has been in place when leagues were of a larger size and therefore the relevance of this has perhaps been watered down. **RC to contact Denham Village D and F Teams accordingly.**
* With regard to potential league structure for 2018/19, it was agreed that if at all possible 3 leagues should be continued as an ideal, as the gulf in standard is just too great on a two league basis.
* RC raised the passing of Ken Marshall, well known to the League and its members, following a long battle with illness. Provisional funeral date is 19 April at Amersham Crematorium, 4pm. It was agreed that Ken’s passing would be raised at the forthcoming AGM.

1. **Date / Venue of Next Meetings**

* Next meeting will be the AGM on 14/5/18. The subsequent meeting will be the Club Secretaries’ meeting, provisionally scheduled for Monday 6/8/18.

Meeting closed 9.05pm.

**Review of Actions from Last Meeting (Apr 18)**

**Apr A1** February minutes to be uploaded onto website **HW**

**Apr A2** RC to establish availability of Hillingdon venue for 29/4/18 ASAP **RC/**

NNS to send email via TT365 to establish support for Social Tournament **NNS**

on Sunday 29/4/18 and progress accordingly

**Apr A3** Email to be sent to all relevant Committee members calling for submission **NNS**

of reports for inclusion in Top Spin Attack.

**Apr A4** All written reports to be sent to NNS by 23 April latest for inclusion in **All**

Top Spin Attack.

**Apr A5** RC to obtain clarity from ETTA regarding permissibility of coaching during **RC**

games for discussion at the AGM.

**Apr A6** Book St Josephs for Club Secretaries’ meeting 6/8/18. **RC**

Liaise with Brunel to establish if club secretary will change.

**Apr A7** NNS to circulate flyers to Committee members for placement in **NNS**

leisure centres / village halls to promote the league.

**Apr A8** Contact Denham Village D and F Teams and establish if they wish to enforce **RC**

play-offs for promotion and relegation purposes.