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

**Held Monday 20 March 2017 at Coppermine, Mill Lane, Chalfont St Giles HP8 4NX**

**Present** Nigel Naylor-Smith(Acting Chair)Stephan Konig, Hazel Williamson, David Morgan, Peter Leckie Jnr, Derek Hughes.

1. **Apologies**

* Apologies received from Bob Baines, Steve Brown, Chris Lee and Richard Cottle.

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 – Consider amendment to Fairbank Cup rules so that a match is re-scheduled only with the agreement of both team captains –** discussion ensued about this proposed rule change, initially raised at the February meeting. After much debate, it was acknowledged that this is only likely to occur in exceptional circumstances and common sense would be expected to prevail. It was agreed therefore that no rule change would be put forward to the AGM.

**Feb A2 – January minutes to be made available on the League website –** HW confirmed these had been uploaded.

**Feb A3 – List of AGM requirements to be circulated to Committee detailing information required from individuals and associated timing –** NNS has attended to this and thanks expressed to those Committee members who have already provided requisite information.

**Feb A4 – Review June 2016 Committee minutes to ensure any AGM related issues are addressed –** NNS has re-read the June 2016 minutes and everything had been covered off – nothing outstanding.

**Feb A5 – Liaise with J Johnson re Championships to commence play at 10am and to have concluded by 5pm –** it was confirmed that play started on time, but target completion had overrun.

**Feb A6 – Ensure all Championship players have a relevant Fairbank Cup handicap –** done.

**Feb A7 – Review E-learning material in respect of pastoral care requirements and update Committee accordingly –** relates tothe safeguarding of children; NNS advised he had paid £14 for the relevant E-learning material which will take c 90 minutes to complete, but had only just started. Once completed he will revert back to Committee. Any coaches and clubs with children under 18 in their teams will need to understand the ramifications – subsequently confirmed by RC via email. NNS will draw up a draft policy for Safeguarding in due course.

**Feb A8 – Consider a rule change in conjunction with D Hughes allowing a lower number of league games to be played for Inter-League qualification purposes –** NNS said he felt strongly about this issue following recent problems with M Atkinson and the League’s ability to provide sufficiently qualified players (minimum 6 league games) to compete in the Inter League competition. It was agreed that NNS and DH would draft a proposed rule change for submission to the Bucks County AGM. It was also suggested however that Chalfont League matches could start earlier in September to help address the problem. *(Action note rolled forward to April meeting).*

**Feb A9 – Consider AGM amended rule change allowing for, and creating a policy for, Time Out calls -** The league currently doesn’t have a policy for Time Outs, albeit this is allowable in internationals and other competitions. One time out per match (ie 3 time outs per player per evening) are allowed per international rules, max 1 minute, subject to the specified criteria. It was agreed that a draft wording would be submitted to the AGM seeking adoption of this amended ruling. PL Jnr also stated the League should have clarity on ‘towelling down’ – ie every 6 points per International rules and it was agreed that this would also be put forward to the AGM. SK made the point that League rules state that matches should be played ‘in line with TTE laws’ – which can differ from internationally approved rules. It was agreed that precision is required. Finally, DM suggested the handbook should be amended so that any reference to ETTA is amended to TTE – this was also agreed.

1. **League Status**

* HW confirmed the League continued to progress satisfactorily, with 20 teams comprising 113 players in total. There are 6 postponed matches, 3 in Div 1, 2 in Div 2 and 1 in Div 3. 140 matches out of 146 have been played to date, with one conceded match (Ickenham vs Hillingdon C).
* Division 1 looks to be between Denham A and Hillingdon A, with Denham Village E well ahead in Division 2, with the rest of the division very close. Division 3 looks to be between St Josephs and Hillingdon C.
* There are 31 matches left to play plus Fairbank Cup semi-finals and final, latter set for Tuesday 18/4/17 at Chalfont Memorial Hall, which has been booked. This would leave approximately 4 weeks for the relevant engraving to be done. Conclusion date for league fixtures is 14/4/17 so that all relevant information can be included in Top Spin Attack. NNS suggested an email be sent to all postponing captains reminding them of the need to play all matches by 14/4/17.

1. **Fairbank Cup – Update**

* DM advised there had been no problems encountered other than his own team, which had had to withdraw due to unavailability issues. DM also said he would email all team captains advising them of the date of the Fairbank Cup final with a view to achieving a good attendance, as this had been poorly attended last year. DM is unavailable to supervise the final due to holiday, NNS agreed to deputise. Bob Baines has presented trophies previously, but this is unlikely this year.

1. **Championships – Post Event Review**

* NNS sought feedback on how the Championships had played out. DH felt there had been adequate time to set up the venue and sufficient help had been available. SK however was adamant that play should start earlier and, due to overrunning, there had been issues at the end of the day when other hall users started to move in, despite the hall being booked out until 6pm. J Johnson confirmed that next year certain finals would need to be pulled forward, so avoiding availability issues with players being involved in other games. Basis of play had seen the bulk of the finals played in the last hour or so.
* DH felt there had been some considerable down time with a number of empty tables due to players competing in other matches when required elsewhere. It was also felt that match scheduling could be improved, with both Ladies and Mixed Doubles called to play at the same time. DH also questioned the number of applications from Div 2 and 3 players and felt that a divisional competition would garner interest. Whilst there is a Plate competition, based on Fairbank Cup handicaps, this could still result in a low number of games if players lose in round 1 of their competition. NNS concluded that a Divisional championship competition would be attractive.
* J Johnson was aware there were too many matches starting late due to players being tied up elsewhere, as inevitably a relatively small handful of the best players will compete in the bulk of the finals. A junior potentially had the opportunity to enter 6 or 7 different competitions, although Committee did not favour placing a restriction on how many competitions could be entered. In total, J Johnson had spent 30 hours organising order of play and it was roundly concluded that he had again done an excellent job.
* RC confirmed by email that £350 had been paid by the League for hall hire, with the shortfall made up by £30 raised from the junior competition, plus £70 sponsorship provided by a player.
* The Junior League event had run for much of the day and had been well received. Consensus had been that this worked well, although they had tried to commandeer a further table later in the day which had been a problem.
* It was felt however that hall conditions had been excellent, probably the best on record, although shop sales had been below expectation, with just £26 profit on sales.
* *One disappointing note had been the behaviour of Harry Wilcox which was considered not to be up to standard, with the player concerned swearing and refusing to vacate a table on which he was practising, even when asked to do so by R Cottle as club coach. J Johnson had specifically commented on this in writing to SK. It was agreed that in normal course the league Chairman would write to any party accused of unbefitting behaviour by way of censure and it was agreed that NNS would draft out a suitable letter.* ***Note – these comments are to be redacted ahead of March minutes being uploaded to the League website.***

1. **AGM – Planning Update**

* NNS referenced the timetable previously sent out and reminded members that I Skeldon would not be available to take the minutes. D Hughes kindly volunteered to undertake. Thanks expressed to those who had already undertaken / concluded their duties.
* NNS had spoken to Bob Baines, but felt it unfair to expect Bob to run the AGM, albeit it would be excellent if he could be present. NNS has already produced the Chairman’s report, which he will circulate round Committee to ensure there is nothing contentious and to avoid unnecessary repetition. He also asked Committee members if a theme was required, following on from last year’s theme of ‘Change’. There did not appear to be any challenges on timings.
* In terms of guest speaker, it appeared that the CEO of TTE is happy to attend and Committee will set out expected guest speaker time parameters. Investigation is ongoing to see if a high ranked England player can also attend, but as a minimum it is expected that CEO of TTE will attend.
* Preparation of the AGM document is well advanced and it was agreed that 30 copies of the document would be available on the night, to avoid shortages. Documentation would be sent out by 26/3/17 to players. NNS said he had all Div 1 email addresses but would also email club secretaries and / or team captains for onward transmission, but could not guarantee the relevant information would be passed on. NNS felt that in all likelihood c85% of players could be contacted via email details held on the league website.

1. **2017/2018 – Fees and Subscriptions Recommendations**

* NNS asked if next year’s subscriptions needed to be increased. SK advised that whilst he had yet to produce the Treasurer’s report for the AGM, he felt intuitively that it would be sufficient to keep the fees at existing levels.

1. **Committee Roles – Confirmation of Re-Election**

* NNS sought confirmation from members if they are willing to stand for re-election. HW advised that C Lee does not wish to stand again. PL Jnr has spoken to Steve Brown and thought that he might be willing to continue as Publicity Officer. NNS agreed to contact SB to clarify and to seek formal confirmation from C Lee of his intentions.
* In the event CL does not stand, this will leave the role of Championship organiser vacant. SK wondered if J Johnson would undertake this role but not be part of the League Committee, thus avoiding the monthly meetings. SK to speak with JJ to confirm. He also felt that the bulk of the work could be undertaken via sub-committee comprising SK, HW and J Johnson.
* It was agreed that players present at the AGM should be invited to join Committee, whether via formal Committee Membership or as a helper. DH made the point that the Committee is primarily formed by members from Denham Village and Chalfont clubs and given Hillingdon’s size, it seemed appropriate to establish if any of their members would be interested in joining. NNS agreed to contact S Merican and S Keyes to take forward. Assistance with TopSpin Attack and handbook preparation would be especially helpful.
* All other members confirmed their willingness to stand for re-election. I Skeldon confirmed he would continue as Minutes Secretary. NNS also felt that Bob Baines would like to continue as Chair, health permitting.

1. **Officers’ Reports**

**Chairman;** - nothing to report.

**General Secretary; -** nothing further to report.

**Treasurer;**- SK advised that J Johnson had attended to the purchase of trophies at a cost of £427, with cost for engraving expected to be in the region of £120, per last year. In respect of the Championships, a profit of just £26.90 had been made, but some surplus crisps would be used for the AGM. Championships entry fees were £410, largely offsetting hall hire costs of £460, with the League’s expense in this regard capped at £350. A further £72 had been spent on the senior coaching sessions at Denham Village. In summary, a breakeven position is anticipated this year. There do not appear to be any other known expenses save potential AGM guest speaker expenses and hall hire of £40 for the Fairbank Cup final. SK also expanded on the deficit seen in the accounts over a number of years, pointing out that the League was not intended to make a profit and at one time held funds of £3/4000. Available cash had reduced to c£1400 last year and he felt comfortable enough maintaining funds at, or near, this level.

**Match Secretary; -** HW paid over £4.30 to the Treasurer relating to player registration. HW said that J Johnson had done an excellent job with the Championships and had also provided a written report on the event which she had sent on to the press, but was unsure if this had been published yet. This would also be put on the website, and suggested that this could also form the basis of the report for TopSpin Attack, which NNS agreed with, subject to a few amendments. All relevant results are on the website, including Fairbank Cup results, and the venue for the final has been booked. There had been one complaint relating to an incorrect venue address which has since been amended.

HW advised that RC had queried if a player should have his / her average negatively impacted in the event a player arrived late and thus forfeiting the game**,** as opposed to actually losing the game. After debate, and in the absence of anything in the handbook to this effect, it was agreed that the player’s average would not be negatively impacted if a game had to be forfeited, as opposed to lost. It was also agreed that for next year if a team only has two players, the winning team’s players will be shown as winning 2 games, as opposed to 3***. It was agreed that this would be raised at the AGM and SK would amend the Handbook to reflect this***.

**Inter League Secretary; -** nothing to report.

**Development Officer; -** RC reported via email that the senior player training went very well, with Steve Buck taking the 3rd session free of charge, Eli Baraty having led the first two events. Feedback had been very positive and he hoped to be able to run further events in the future, the intention being the League would not be exposed to any cost. The 3rd Junior league event took place 25/2/17 at Chalfont St Peter Academy and also went well. There are 7 teams in Div 1 and 6 in Div 2. RC praised the involvement of John Underwood and Steve Keyes who are doing an excellent job, with a very strong list of players coming through. CSP Tornados are currently top of Div 1. The next event will be held at Denham Village.

**County Representative;** - DH advised County is concerned with the loss of junior players. The County Championship had been fairly successful, but shortage of players remained a problem. NNS said he had never seen any request for players to put themselves forward for County Veterans events and DH said he would bring this up at the next meeting. PL Jnr said that juniors are not obliged to play in local leagues as they play in country-wide events and this is probably a key factor in losing younger players from local leagues. The County AGM is set for 2/6/17 and DH expects to attend. The last County meeting had largely been involved in redrawing the County constitution, but this does not appear to impact on Chalfont league. The amended constitution will be circulated in due course. A County representative will be invited to the Chalfont AGM in line with normal practice. Finally, the Bucks Closed championships were cancelled due to lack of a suitable venue and clashes with other events.

**Publicity Officer;** -report for Closed Championships sent to local press.

**Fairbank Cup Officer;** - nothing further to report.

**Championship Secretary;** - nothing further to report.

1. **Any Other Business**

* None.

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

* Confirmed as Monday 10/4/17 at Coppermine. AGM set for 15/5/17 at GX.
* Club Secretaries meeting set for Monday 3/7/17, 8pm – venue to be arranged. IS to do minutes. HW to establish availability at Chalfont St Peter Memorial Centre.

Meeting closed 9.20pm.

**Summary of Actions**

**Ref** **Description** **Action Owner**

**Mar A1** Complete E-learning material relating to Pastoral Care and report **NNS**

back to Committee with draft policy for adoption by the League

**Mar A2** Consider a rule change in conjunction with D Hughes allowing **NNS / DH**

a lower number of league games be played for Inter League

qualification purposes

**Mar A3** Draft rule changes to be drawn up and submitted to the AGM **NNS**

with reference to ‘time-outs’,‘towelling down’ and to remove

handbook references to ETTA, replacing these with TTE

**Mar A4** Advise team captains of Fairbank Cup final details **DM**

**Mar A5** Letter of censure to be sent with regard to anti-social **NNS**

conduct arising at the Championships

**Mar A6** Draft Chairman’s report to be circulated to Committee for **NNS**

comment as necessary

**Mar A7** NNS to contactR Cottle,C Lee and S Brown to clarify their **NNS**

intentions for re-election. Also to contact S Merican and S Keyes

given Hillingdon’s lack of representation on Committee.

**Mar A8** S Konig to contact J Johnson to see if he will act as Championship **SK**

Organiser next season.

**Mar A9** Handbook notes to be adjusted to reflect the impact of averages **SK**

when the opposition only has 2 players.

**Mar A10** Establish availability of Chalfont St Peter Memorial Centre for **HW**

venue for Club Secretaries meeting – set for 3/7/17.

**Mar A11** February minutes to be uploaded onto website **HW**